

## Pay snag dims hopes of early end to power cuts

There were serious doubts last night whether power men would return to normal working today after the Electricity Council had stated that it would not pay the men for the duration of the dispute. Payment was one of the conditions laid down by the men for a return. Earlier Mr Wedgwood Benn had said the men's conditions posed no difficulties for the Government.

## Mr Benn blamed for confusion on terms

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter  
The Electricity Council was emphatic last night that it would not pay power workers who had taken unofficial action that caused power cuts throughout Britain.

Earlier Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, had said that the three conditions put forward by the men for a resumption of work by 10 o'clock tonight posed no difficulty for the Government. One condition was that they should get paid for the duration of the dispute.

There was serious doubt last night whether earlier optimism about a quick settlement had been justified. The four manual unions in the industry are uncomfortable about the impact that an unofficial shop stewards' committee has had on bargaining.

The Department of Energy was at pains to emphasise that Mr Benn was not commenting on any difficulties the conditions might present to the Central Electricity Generating Board and the Electricity Council, but was merely saying that the Government saw no obstacle.

The managers and professional engineers who have helped to reopen six power stations closed by the action are annoyed with Mr Benn. Their leaders, too, were interpreting his remarks as suggesting that men should get paid for the duration of the dispute.

Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the engineers' union, the Electrical Power Engineers' Association (EPEA), described Mr Benn's statement as "irrefragable".

He added: "One of the problems about this whole dispute has been that Mr Benn has not been heard of. He has given no support, he has made no attempt in support of the unions, the management or my members and other members of the staff who have been working to keep the system going."

He said that his members would be angry if Mr Benn was saying there was no difficulty in meeting the shop stewards' peace conditions.

"I am bound to say we will not wear it," he said on the Independent Television News at One. "Our members have not done the work they have done; they have not made the sacrifices they have made, in order to have the Government pay the wages for not working. It is ridiculous."

He said he did not believe that that was the Government's view. It might be Mr Benn's, and if it was it would be challenged. Mr Benn had adopted an incredible posture over the past few days.

Whitehall sources indicated after a joint management-union meeting with Mr Benn yesterday that the Central Electricity Generating Board was being pressed to give urgent consideration to arrangements for a return to work. From the management's point of view, however, the conditions as a package do not form the basis for a peace deal.

National union leaders left the talks for consultations among themselves. Mr Jack Riggall, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said he was hopeful of a return to normal working.

If the unions find any difficulties in the peace terms they are likely to centre on the stewards' demand to be recognised as bargaining agents. It appears that they are talking only about local negotiating machinery and not the national structure, but the point is still not clear.

Mr Albert Perryman has been named as leader of the shop stewards' committee heading the dispute, apparently because of threats to his family from the public. His successor is Mr Michael Barwick, who works at Drax power station in Yorkshire.

## Firemen's strike is expected to go ahead

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, said last night that the national firemen's strike threatened to take place from 9 am next Monday was likely to go ahead.

He was speaking after three and a half hours of talks with leaders of the Fire Brigades Union and local authority representatives which failed to close the gap between the 30 per cent pay claim and the offer made within the government guidelines.

After the talks the Home Office said that the Home Secretary and Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, had emphasised the "incredibly serious consequences" of a national strike in the fire service. They had reaffirmed that there could be no question of any immediate pay settlement that was not within the Government's pay policy.

Mr Rees said as he left the meeting: "As things are tonight it certainly looks as though there is going to be a strike on Monday. I do not at present see any other room for manoeuvre under pay policy."

Earlier, leaders of the National Association of Fire Officers, whose four thousand members occupy senior posts in five stations, warned Mr Rees that they would not cross picket lines or fight fires along the coast. They were, however, prepared to advise units of the armed forces.

Mr Rees said the Government was going ahead with contingency plans to use Servicemen for essential fire cover. The policy will be to send firemen to the coast, where they will be replaced by the work of firemen.

A recalled national conference of the FBU on Monday voted to pursue the 30 per cent pay claim, which would add £20 to the gross basic rate of £65.71 for a qualified fireman.

2,000 calls a day, page 2

## A government unit is busy planning how to meet civil emergencies How Baldwin and Attlee safeguarded services

By Peter Hennessy

The power workers' dispute and the imminent threat of a firemen's strike can have brought scant comfort to Cabinet Office planners whose job it is to think the unthinkable about civil disorder. Sir Clive Rose, aged 56, a diplomat on secondment from the Foreign Office, is the deputy secretary who leads the Civil Contingencies Unit in its minute taker at the Overseas Policy

and Defence Committee of the Cabinet.

Sir Clive chairs the inter-departmental committee charged with finding remedies when essential services and supplies are jeopardised by acts of God and disaffected groups. Around his table he can summon the collective wisdom of the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Security Service, the departments of environment, employment, industry, transport, health and social security, with the ever-present Treasury ensuring whatever

arrangements are being made, that the cost does not get out of hand.

His primary preoccupation this week will probably be with what, if anything, has changed since the winter crisis of 1973-74, which brought down the Heath government. Whitehall discovered then and later, during the Ulster power workers' strike, for example, that the technology of the electrical power industry has become so complicated that the Armed Services these days could not run the power

stations as the Navy did during the 1926 General Strike.

The Civil Contingencies Unit continually asks itself which unions taking direct action can exert an immediate effect on the nation's life and morale. High on that list of vulnerable spots are power supplies, sewage, water, bread and transport.

It must also try to estimate which unions will honour another's picket line. If the Government takes on the railwaymen, can the country keep moving unless the busmen come out too? If the railwaymen and the Transport and General Workers' Union had not recognised the miners' picket lines in 1973-74 the outcome might have been very different.

At first sight, as Sir Clive reflects on the events of three years ago, when Sir Patrick Nairne, now at the Department of Health and Social Security, occupied his chair, little will appear to have changed for the better. The police are better trained to handle mass pickets. The balance of payments is infinitely stronger. The Government could take on the unions of British Leyland without the currency collapsing. Perhaps most important of all, it can rely on the Opposition to withhold support from individuals and groups who threaten the civil power, a certainty that was denied to Mr Heath.

But would the unions break ranks this time in a way they did not do in 1973-74? Even if a Labour government does find itself enjoying advantages denied the Conservatives by the Labour movement, has it got the equipment, the staff, or even the plans to keep the country going in a civil emergency?

If he has the time, which he almost certainly has not, Sir Clive Rose might find solace in Cabinet Office files for 1925-26, when the man in his seat, the legendary administrator, Sir John Anderson (known as "Churchill" to an automatic pilot) gave Baldwin the wherewithal to win the General Strike.

Continued on page 10, col 1



Servicemen receiving fire-fighting instruction yesterday at Catterick, North Yorkshire.

## 24-hour strike called by French unions

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Nov 8

For the second time this year, French trade unionists were told this evening to join a 24-hour national strike on December 1 in protest against the Government's economic policies. The strike was called by the two largest union organisations, the Communist CGT and the Socialist CFTD, and the militant teachers' union FEN.

Since the end of the summer, the CGT and CFTD have been meeting regularly to discuss ways of continuing the impetus of the first highly successful strike they organized on May 24.

The two organisations have consistently refused to sign the wage agreements negotiated this year and they have increasingly criticised the Government for the way in which it has been dealing with unemployment and inflation while imposing wage restraint.

Masters came to a head on

Thursday when M Barre, the Prime Minister, announced new measures intended to cut the cost of food prices. These were regarded as totally inadequate by the unions and M Georges Séguy, the CGT leader, called an immediate press conference to announce that action would be taken shortly.

The strike on May 24 also had the support of the largest moderate union, the Force Ouvrière, but that does not seem likely on December 1. However, as 40 per cent of all private workers belong to a CGT and 25 per cent to the CFTD, and membership is strongest in heavy industry and public services, the chances are that the strike will have far-reaching effects.

On May 24 an estimated 10 million people stopped work, bringing most transport services to a standstill, causing 60 per cent electricity cuts, closing many factories and all schools, universities and newspapers.

## Local authority men offered 10.7% rise

A further blow to the Government's pay policy was struck yesterday when a million local authority manual workers, the largest public sector group, were offered a rise of 10.7 per cent on earnings. The offer, made by local authority employers, is contrary to government guidelines which seek to keep settlements within 10 per cent.

cent. Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, described the offer as "well below our claim". The union had asked for a rise of about 30 per cent, making a £50 minimum. "Our objective is to make a major impact on low pay. The employers have made no move in that direction."

NEB goes to the regions  
The National Enterprise Board is to establish regional boards in the north and north-west regions with powers to approve soundly-based investments of up to £500,000 per case. The NEB's announcement was not greeted with enthusiasm by Labour MPs opposed to devolution for Scotland and Wales. Some felt the NEB was "a sweeper" to those who opposed the special attention for Scotland and Wales.

## Constable landscape is stolen

A Constable landscape was stolen from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, yesterday. The police said it was apparently taken from the upper floor during the lunch hour. The empty frame was found later in the men's lavatory at the museum.

Entitled "East Bergholt, 1808", the painting is in oil on millboard and measures 6 inches by 9 inches. It depicts a country scene with trees, a red-roofed house, a grey wall and a hedge, and is signed. It was bequeathed to the museum in 1968.

Professor Michael Jaffe, the museum's director, said last night that the painting was missed by security staff at 7 pm. It had been seen in place in the gallery during the morning. He added: "The painting is very small but a fine landscape of one of Constable's favourite places. During last year's Tate exhibition and since we have had it the painting must have been seen by hundreds of thousands of people."

## Old British customs still dying hard

By Robin Young

It sounded as if every British traveller's dream had come true. The customs men would be taking industrial action and be absent from duty all afternoon.

But the British traveller is evidently a sceptical creature. Scarcely any tried to take advantage of the situation. In fact it was quite difficult even to try to do so, because in Calais yesterday business was so quiet that the attendants at the duty-free shop closed it for three hours at lunchtime.

On board the 1410 Sealink service from Calais, the French vessel Compiègne, there were only a handful of British travellers, and none of those returning from trips abroad had heard of the strike.

The staff of the duty-free shop on board did little to encourage business, saying that all they knew was that they had been ordered to prepare an inventory of their stock for a customs check.

Only one man, who said he had read about the strike in The Times, decided to risk buying more than the customary allowance. He had already loaded his Citroën GS with 170 litres of French wine, and now he was buying 12 litres of spirits and some cigarettes and cigars.

His fellow passengers looked at him askance but were not tempted to follow his example until an officer arrived to tell the duty-free shop attendant that the message about the customs check had been misinterpreted. There would be no customs check that afternoon. At that several people plucked up courage to ask for extra bottles of whisky and gin, but it was too late. The inventory had been taken and the attendants said the shop was closed.

Disappointment was short-lived. On arrival at Dover, it was quickly obvious that customs were working much as normal. The man with the Citroën GS, who drove into the red lane, was surrounded by three uniformed senior customs men.

Most of the uniformed customs officers were at the staff association meetings that were intended to end all customs checks for four hours, but several were still at work with their senior colleagues. "We were absolutely determined that there should at least be a check to see that no drugs were brought in," one of the senior men said.

Your Correspondent, the man with the Citroën, eventually emerged looking rueful, having paid a £238 bill. His bottles of whisky, for example, had each cost him £8, nearly twice the British price.

"The funny thing is," he said, "the last time I came through customs was at Gatwick, and there was not a soul in the customs hall when I walked through. But of course, that time I had nothing with me."

Strike news, page 2

## No 'Mirror' again in London

By Our Labour Editor

London editions of the Daily Mirror and Sporting Life are not appearing this morning because of the continuing dispute between journalists and the management of Mirror Group Newspapers.

Nearly 13 million copies of the company's publications have been lost in the past fortnight in the conflict over a claim by the National Union of Journalists for a £3,000 new technology agreement and for salary and allowance improvements estimated at a further £4,000.

The management's decision at night came after a chapel office branch meeting of Daily Mirror and Sporting Life journalists which rejected a letter from the management offering normal production for the rest of the week before negotiations could take place in their claims.

Mr Percy Roberts, chairman of chief executive of the company, had been offered a meeting with the journalists on Monday to discuss the new technology claim but the management said it would take place only if normal production was guaranteed until then.

Production at the Mirror group plant in Manchester was affected.

The company has reported a dispute to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), but NUJ officials are said to have declined to respond to an Acas approach.

## Israeli gunners strike back in border shelling

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Nov 8

Tension rose in Galilee today as a missile attack from Lebanon killed a Jewish woman in Nahariya and Israeli police shot dead an Arab while quelling a demonstration in Majdal Krum.

The shelling of Nahariya, apparently by Palestinian guerrillas, was the second in three days and brought the death toll to three. Army headquarters here said that Israeli artillery retaliated by shelling areas of the Lebanese port of Tyre and Roshdyia, 14 and 12 miles respectively from the border.

These areas were deeper inside Lebanon than the source of the fire on Nahariya.

Lieutenant-General Mordechai Gur, the Israeli Chief of Staff, visited Nahariya, a seaside resort some six miles from the border, and said the shelling this week marked a

change in terrorist policy and the ceasefire between the Palestinians and the Christian militia in southern Lebanon could be considered broken.

In the demonstration at Majdal Krum, 22 Palestinian and 12 Arabs were injured. Nearly 30 protesters were arrested.

Police said a guard had been put on Ministry of Interior representatives carrying out a court order to bulldoze a building which had been put up without a permit at the side of a main highway.

Beirut, Nov 8. — Israeli gunners, in addition to the retaliatory shelling of Tyre, also pounded two Palestinian refugee camps near the city and several Lebanese villages. It was announced here today.

Initial casualty figures from Palestinian and Lebanese sources in the south said up to 10 people had been killed and at least 20 wounded. —UPI.

## No title for Princess Anne's baby

Captain Mark Phillips will not be given a title and Princess Anne will not be created a duchess or given a title in her own right. Buckingham Palace made clear yesterday. Their child, due this weekend will be known as Master or Miss Phillips.

The Queen's first grandchild will be fifth in line to the throne, ahead of Princess Margaret and her children.

The baby will be born in a hospital, which has not been named because the Princess hopes to prevent the hospital from being bothered before the birth.

Many people hope the baby will arrive on Monday, the Princess's fourth wedding anniversary and the Prince of Wales's twenty-ninth birthday.

## Clash between Labour left-wing over Kitson remarks on Soviet progress

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Two leading Labour left-wingers were involved in a heated argument yesterday over remarks praising the achievements of the Soviet Union made by Mr Alex Kitson, a member of the party's national executive committee, while attending the sixtieth anniversary celebrations of the Russian Revolution.

The argument took place at a meeting of the party's international committee and at one stage Mr Eric Heffer, who raised the matter, banged the table in anger at comments made by Mr Norman Atkinson, the party treasurer.

Mr Atkinson said criticisms had been voiced by "cold war warriors", a remark that Mr Heffer countered as an attack upon himself.

While the argument was in progress Mr Heffer also clashed with Mr Frank Akins, who, in defending Mr Kitson, said the matter had been got up by the Tory press. Mr Heffer, flourishing a copy of the Morning Star, which displayed Mr Kitson's remarks prominently on the front page, asked: "Is this a Tory newspaper?"

The inquest, however, never took place. The issue was left until next month's meeting of the committee, when Mr Kitson will be expected to give an account of what he said.

Surprisingly, the Opposition failed to exploit this embarrassment to the Government during Prime Minister's question time yesterday. Mr Callaghan was prepared to express strong disapproval of Mr Kitson if he had been asked to comment, but no one asked him.

## Row over secret bribery report

Plans to draw up an international code on bribery and to establish a top-level council to implement the code are likely to cause a major row. A secret report suggests that the council should have powers to name organisations.

Ted Ray dies  
Ted Ray, the comedian, died of a heart attack yesterday, aged 71. He was admitted last Thursday for what he said was a check on a hip operation. The hospital said the death was unexpected and the coroner had been told.

Minter's title  
Alan Minter regained the British middleweight boxing championship when he beat Kevin Finnegan on points, and Maurice Hope retained his European light-middleweight title.

Leader page 15  
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Ted Ray: Dr Keith Jefferson; Dr Stanley Reimes. Sport, pages 12 and 13. Football: Bayern and the Italian team under fire; Racing: Michael Phillips on the threat to Lester's; December sales from an equine disease; Cricket: John Hennessy reflects on the Packer case.

Home News 2, 3, 6  
European News 6, 7  
Overseas News 7, 8  
Appointments 16, 22  
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## Zambia rebuff to Carver mission

Zambia has delivered a rebuff to the British and United Nations envoys touring Africa to muster support for the proposed constitutional settlement in Rhodesia. According to informed sources, President Kaunda opposed plans to hold elections in a transitional period before majority rule was achieved. Guerrilla leaders must play an important part in the transition, Zambia officials said.

Dublin: Liam Patrick Townson was sentenced at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin to life imprisonment for the murder of Captain Robert Nairne, British Guards officer.

Washington: Case begins aimed at preserving Nixon tapes from being freely used by disc jockeys and others.

Honorary KBE: Bernard Haitink, principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, has been made an honorary KBE.

Arts, page 11  
Patrick Brogan on a big New York exhibition of late Cezannes which will afterwards be shown in Paris; Michael Rance on Play for Today (BBC 1); Ned Chaillet on The Elephant Man (Hampstead Theatre); concert notices by Stanley Sadie, Paul Griffiths and Thomas Walker.

Stock markets: Equities staged a rally and the FT index closed 115 up at 492.2. Financial Editor: If the Saudis want sterling...; Brewers, that splendid 1976 summer; Coats Patons currency losses take their toll.

Business features: Maurice Corina on the importance to the Confederation of British Industry of its first annual conference next week; John Huxley discusses the civil engineering industry's claim for government help.

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Price rise sought or loaves  
Alison Mitchell  
Associated British Foods is chiding a 3p rise in the price of a standard loaf as a result of the bread strike earlier this year, which cost the group £52m. Spillers and RHM announced a similar application.

Financial News, page 20



## HOME NEWS

## Passengers escape lightly as customs men strike

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

A "smugglers' paradise" which was threatened because of a strike by customs officers yesterday did not take place, although it was cautiously admitted that passengers at sea and airports were not being subjected to the normal amount of checking.

The Board of Customs and Excise said a customs presence was maintained and control of passenger traffic continued to operate, but some officials were not in uniform and might not have been recognized as customs men.

The four-hour strike was part of a half-day of protest over pay by the Society of Civil and Public Servants.

Passengers arriving at Heathrow said they had walked through the customs hall without hindrance. About a hundred customs men and women were believed to have walked out at the airport during the afternoon. In their place the authorities left "honesty boxes" and bundles of forms for passengers who believed they had goods to declare.

There was also action by immigration officers at Heathrow. At Gatwick hundreds of passengers were delayed when most of the officials walked out, leaving a handful of staff to check passports and baggage. Passengers carrying British passports were allowed through but others were told they would be held until the strike, which ended at 5.30 pm, was over.

There were no delays at Dover.

The strike also affected many local offices of the Department

of Health and Social Security and in some areas driving tests were cancelled as examiners stopped work.

The society said it had had almost total support among the 95,000 of its 105,000 members who were asked to stop work. The protest has angered other Civil Service unions who are abiding by a decision to take industrial action jointly. A request to the Institution of Professional Civil Servants from the society not to cross picket lines was rejected by Mr William McCall, general secretary, as "preposterous."

Lord Peart, Lord Privy Seal, who has responsibility for the Civil Service, said the strike might make pay negotiations more difficult. The reputation of the Civil Service might be damaged.

About 3,500 civil servants met in Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday afternoon to press their demand that the independent pay research unit, which compares Civil Service wages with private sector wages, should be restored. The Government maintains that there can be no question of a pay settlement next April, the anniversary date, based on such pay research.

Tax representatives: Mr Healey, the Chancellor, has given the Treasury until tomorrow to try to find a peace formula in a dispute that is threatening to delay the tax repayments promised in his recent economic measures (the Press Association reports).

Unemployed staff want additional pay for the extra work they will have to do if the new allowances are to be arranged before Christmas.

## Government claims support for policy

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Prime Minister, having last week appealed for public support for pay restraint, admitted in the Commons yesterday that the Government was "mobilizing" and getting that support. As long as it could retain it the Government would stick to its policy of resisting excessive wage demands.

During question time Mr Callaghan declared: "It is our task to mobilize the general will against the particular interest."

With the rank and file rebelling against union leadership, as with the firemen's decision to strike, there was a problem for democracy as a whole. We have got to give a firm lead, and we intend to do it," Mr Callaghan said.

His slight shift of emphasis was duly noted at Westminster. But any idea that he meant that if public support was withdrawn he would then give in to wage demands was strenuously rejected. Clearly, the impression is left with observers that the Government believes that the miners have strengthened its hand; and that the public reaction against them has helped the Government.

The Government also affects confidence over the miners' pay demand. Mr Callaghan claimed in one answer that the miners' pay agreement did not expire until next March. He meant that the Government intended, at the very least, to keep the miners to the 12-month interval that, as the TUC agreed, ought to separate wage settlements after phase two.

Parliamentary report, page 9

## Local authority workers offered 10.7%

By Paul Roulledge  
Labour Editor

The Government's pay policy was thrown into fresh confusion yesterday by an offer of 10.7 per cent on the wages bill to the largest group of public-sector workers, a million local authority manual workers.

The offer made by local authority employers in the face of Mr Healey's insistence that most settlements this winter must be "well within single figures" if an overall limit of 10 per cent in the national pay award was to be reserved. It would cost ratepayers about £173m a year.

According to figures supplied to the three local authority unions, the employers' offer gives 3.5 per cent on basic rates (£3.40 to £4 a week); another 1.4 per cent flowing from the partial consolidation of the pay policy supplements; and a further 0.5 per cent from a tidying-up operation for the re-

maining money granted under phases one and two but left as a wage supplement.

That total of 10.7 per cent was described last night by Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), as well below the aim.

The union said it asked for a substantial rise, quantified in talks as a £50 minimum, which would mean rises of up to £11.50, or about 30 per cent.

"Our objective is to make a major impact on low pay," he said. "The employers have made no move in that direction."

Nupe's national committee for local authority workers is to meet on Friday to examine the offer, and an emergency meeting of the union's executive has been called for the next day to decide what recommendation should be put to 375,000 members employed on town hall manual work.

## Brigades answer 2,000 calls for help every day

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The fire service in England and Wales answers nearly 2,000 calls each day, according to the latest statistics published yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Figures for last year show that the average cost of turning out in response to a call was £350. Of the total number of calls, two fifths were to small fires and the other three fifths to large fires. Half the false alarms were attributed to "malicious" calls, costing some £23m.

For the year 1977-78 it is estimated that the fire service will cost £244m. The Government's rate support grant for the service amounted to £238m, leaving a gap of nearly £6m to be paid for by the local authorities. Most of the excess relates to the estimate of some 2,000 more staff in employment than covered by the grant.

Although the estimated number of whole-time and part-time firemen is 2,000 above the figures used in the rate support grant settlement, the total of 52,754 is below the number needed by the local authorities.

Whole-time firemen, totalling 32,829, are estimated to be 4 per cent below strength, and the 14,296 part-time firemen are considered to be 20 per cent down. The rest is made up of 5,629 civilians on the service staff.

Fire Services Estimates Statistics (C.I.P.A., Buckingham Palace, London, SW1 2J).

Training for fire-fighting techniques

for 11,000 Servicemen was stepped up yesterday in case they have to fill the gap left by striking firemen next week. Eight thousand are soldiers and the rest are mainly from the Royal Air Force.

Mr Charles Clisby, deputy assistant chief officer, said: "In London we have 450 calls a day. We require 5,500 people to man three shifts and to give adequate rest. The Servicemen will get very tired indeed."

Officially it is said that the training of Servicemen follows existing contingency plans, but it is understood that the Ministry did not expect a nationwide strike. Just stoppages in areas where firemen were most militant.

It is said that there is no equipment to fight fires in high-rise flats or electrical and chemical fires in industry. Mr Roy Sanders, chief fire officer for Essex, yesterday urged people to mount fire watches and "pounce on domestic blazes."

Prospect of a strike has alarmed the National Farmers' Union in Wales. A spokesman said: "We are very concerned about the possible risk of fires in the countryside, especially as there are apparently no plans to use the Army for fire-fighting outside the cities."

Margaret Stones writes: The threat of a firemen's strike should be a cause of concern to householders who are worried about the insurance implications of their house being burnt to the ground in the absence of the local fire brigade. The ex-

cessive cost of the insurance, pepper householders on paying not exempt insurers from paying in those circumstances.

## Riddle of Mulley reply on Service unions

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, said in the Commons yesterday that he had no objection in principle to the Armed Forces having union membership and negotiating about pay.

He said in reply to a question that he was not at all sure that that would overcome the difficulties facing the Government in dealing with Service pay.

He added: "On the other hand I have no objection in principle to the Armed Forces, if they were so minded, seeking that kind of representation."

Mr Mulley, who faced questions from Conservatives, denied that any members of the Armed Forces were drawing social security, although about ten officers and six thousand other ranks were receiving rent and rate rebates.

It would be unwise to try to predict what the Armed Forces Pay Review Body would recommend in its next report in April, he added.

Mr Mulley's statement on union representation, which took his own ministry by surprise, has significant overtones at a time when there is widespread discontent over pay and conditions in the Services.

Officers and men have complained that their hardship has been largely forgotten because they have no union or professional organization to bring pressure to bear on the authorities.

There are Servicemen's unions in West Germany and Holland, where barracks-room "shop stewards" represent the interests of the mainly conscript forces.

Servicemen in Britain are free to join trade unions appropriate to particular crafts, to help them find jobs

on their return to civilian life. But they can only pay their subscriptions, and are not allowed to negotiate over pay, still less take part in industrial action.

A Ministry report said it was thought that Mr Mulley had meant no more than that, and was merely repeating what was already known. But officials were seeking clarification last night.

Since 1970 Armed Forces pay has been decided by the Government after recommendations by the review body, whose task it is to seek comparability with equivalent civilian trades.

But a phase two award in April was accompanied by a rise in food and accommodation charges, and some Servicemen lost money as a result. Many took second jobs in the evening to supplement their incomes.

Parliamentary report, page 9

## Secrets case court is cleared for playing of tape

By Stewart Trender  
Magistrate

London. A tape recording was played at a meeting at which a former Army intelligence analyst was said to have given two journalists details of Britain's system for monitoring telecommunications.

The court was told that the recording was made last February when the journalist met Mr Barry, aged 33, the former soldier, of Wood Green, London. Mr Barry, Duncan Campbell, aged 24, of Brighton, and Crispin Aubrey, aged 31, of Islington, London, have all been charged under the Official Secrets Act.

On the first day of committal proceedings, at which reporting restrictions were lifted, Mr Michael Coombe, for the prosecution, said the information at the meeting could have seriously damaged the national interest. An expert witness would say that such damage might range from the "grave to the exceptionally grave."

Mr Coombe said Mr Barry was in the Army from 1965 to 1970 in various units and places. He was engaged in work involving security and

signals intelligence counsel said. The work was highly secret and Mr Barry signed undertakings never to reveal that work.

Some time before the meeting in February, Mr Barry made a statement to the National Council for Civil Liberties in which he said he had been interested in the case of Mark Hosenball and Philip Agee, two Americans expelled earlier this year for reasons of national security.

In the statement Mr Barry referred to the government communications headquarters, links with other intelligence agencies in the United States and the monitoring system which existed on friendly and alien countries, as well as commercial telecommunications traffic. He was worried about the things being done without public knowledge or financial accountability.

As a result of the statement, Mr Aubrey, who works for the Time magazine, arranged to see Mr Barry and took Mr Campbell, a freelance journalist, with him.

A recording lasting more than three hours was taken and both journalists took notes. After the meeting,

signals intelligence counsel said. The work was highly secret and Mr Barry signed undertakings never to reveal that work.

Mr Coombe said Mr Barry told the journalists about the nature and size of Army intelligence, links between the Services, identification, and other details.

He continued: "The Crown says it is information that could be useful to an enemy and its disclosure in this manner is exceptionally grave." Signals intelligence was considered essential to the defence of the country and was particularly vulnerable to counter-measures.

An enemy, Mr Coombe said, would want to know what was done and what units were involved. According to an expert, information supplied by Mr Barry could endanger lives in such places as Northern Ireland.

Counsel said Mr Aubrey had been charged as an aider and abettor. He went with a tape recorder to the meeting.

In the case of Mr Campbell, who is charged with obtaining the information from Mr Barry, Mr Coombe said: "It is not a charge that he was in the employ of a foreign power but he was thoroughly subver-

sive and published information that he knew was secret."

Mr Campbell is charged separately with collecting information that might be useful to an enemy. Mr Coombe said that when the police searched Mr Campbell's home in Brighton they found hundreds of photographs, slides and an index with more than 700 cards into which information concerning defence establishments, radar stations and other systems was distilled.

Mr Campbell, he said, "had no scruple in passing information on and receiving information back from them."

After evidence had been given that Mr Barry had signed the Official Secrets Act during and at the end of his Army service, the court heard the first few minutes of the tape recording. The three men were heard discussing Mr Barry's Service record and then the two large loudspeakers were turned off.

Mr Coombe asked the three magistrates to hear the rest of the recording in camera. The three defence counsel opposed the application.

The magistrates, under the chairmanship of Mr J. B. Turner, decided to hear the tapes in secret.

The hearing continues today.

delinquent to national security or safety. The administration of justice should be public. A decision that accepted that there was information on the tapes of a secret nature amounted to prejudging the case.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, for the defence of Mr Campbell, said his client would say that the prosecution had mistaken subversion for investigative journalism, and the other side of the coin should be heard. Much of what was on the tape had been published. He pointed out that Mr Barry was not allowed to go to any iron curtain country without written permission for a mere two years after his discharge. Yet he could never go to Time Out.

Lord Gifford, for the defence of Mr Aubrey, said it was important to hear the tapes in camera when political issues were involved. They included the question of how far a professional journalist should interview a former member of the Armed Forces.

The magistrates, under the chairmanship of Mr J. B. Turner, decided to hear the tapes in secret.

## Dr Owen urges new tax system for 1980s

By Our Political Reporter

A big change in Britain's personal taxation system in the 1980s was proposed for discussion by Dr Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, last night.

In a lecture to the Fabian Society Dr Owen described the present pay-as-you-earn system as virtually unique, and advocated a self-assessment system as operated in the United States and Canada.

The adoption of self-assessment would bring Britain into line with most other Western countries, would cut administrative costs considerably, would remove some of the existing obstacles to short-term management of the economy and would bring a number of other advantages.

"There may be problems but I have little doubt that in the 1980s tax policy should be examined more openly, and seriously than hitherto," he explained.

He explained that under the self-assessment system people were in effect assessed on the basis of their incomes in the first week or month of the tax year. The system would be a simple one, whereby most people paid too much tax and received an annual rebate was popular.

Dr Owen said if the Labour Party failed to tap, ignite, cherish and foster alienation it would never enlist sufficient support for its policies. "We are not a party purely dedicated to the values of the market place."

Community cooperation, participation, workers' democracy, decentralized decision-making, the virtue of the small unit, have always been high among the values of British socialism, yet until recently they have been less influential and the party's philosophy and appeal correspondingly weakened.

"At last we are moving away from over-increasing centralization. The Labour Government's commitment to devolution is a welcome return to a historic commitment. We are starting to look at the Conservative local government reform with a view to bringing some of its decision-making powers for some cities closer to the people."

The Labour Party must recapture its radicalism. The wish to change society remained, particularly among the young, but it had been strangled by conservatism.

More action must be spent in getting value for money in social spending and investment. The party concentrated too much on global levels of spending. Increasing social expenditure was often desirable but not an end in itself.

## Concern on parental choice of school

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

The National Union of Teachers expressed concern yesterday over some of the proposals for legislation contained in the controversial consultation paper of the Department of Education and Science on parental choice of schools.

A delegation of the union told Mrs Jackson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the department, that the proposals might lead to the creation of a "social hierarchy" of schools in an area.

Members of the science and education subcommittee of the Labour Party executive have also voiced concern on this point. Pressure has been brought to bear on Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

In the debate on the Queen's Speech Mrs Williams said parents should be given an opportunity to express a preference for a school and to have that preference taken fully into account, "along with all the other relevant factors such as the need for local authorities, as school rolls fall, to be able to deploy their resources effectively to run an efficient education service, and, in the case of secondary schools, to operate a satisfactory comprehensive system."

Some members of the Labour Party have complained that the consultation document, issued in October, wrongly elevated parental choice to be the main criterion in the allocation of pupils to secondary schools. They argued, would hinder the development of balanced educational opportunities, and thereby

threaten the basic principle of comprehensive schooling.

Commenting on Mrs Williams' speech in the Commons last Friday, Mr Bryan Davies, Labour MP for Enfield, North, spoke for many of his colleagues in the Labour Party when he said that any legislation that emphasized parental choice would mean that it would be the best informed parents and those who could afford to pay for the increased travel of their children who would have their rights identified and enshrined in statutes.

The state also had an important obligation to children from poor homes who had less articulate parents, he said. The consultation document said that it should be a statutory requirement for a child to be admitted to the school of his parents' choice unless the school was full to the planned operating capacity; the admission of the pupil would adversely affect the efficient provision of education in the school or in the area; or the school was unsuitable to the age, ability or aptitude of the child.

Parents dissatisfied with the decision should have the right of appeal first to the local education authority and then to the Secretary of State.

Mrs Williams believed that a parent's choice of school in a particular local authority area could not be rejected simply because the parent did not live in that area.

Mrs Williams hopes to include legislation on parental choice in an Education Bill session if it is parliamentary time.

Leading article, page 15

## Life jail for murder of Capt Nairac

Liam Patrick Townson, aged 34, was found guilty at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday of the murder of Captain Robert Nairac, the British Guards officer. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Townson, from Co Armagh, had denied murdering Captain Nairac, aged 29, who disappeared on a special mission for the Army in Northern Ireland in May. His body has not been found.

The court was told that Mr Townson shot him through the head near the Irish border soon after he disappeared. He was said to have told the police that Captain Nairac had pleaded to see a priest.

Mr Townson was sentenced to an additional five years, to run alongside the life term, for possessing firearms. He had pleaded not guilty to the murder and four firearm charges. The court made no finding on the remaining counts.

Mr Justice Darcy, President of the court, told him: "We are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the only possible interpretation of the statement is that you 'hot and killed the captain'."

Much of Mr Townson's trial was taken up dealing with the inadmissibility of statements he made to the police, including long talks with detectives.

## Warrant sought for woman

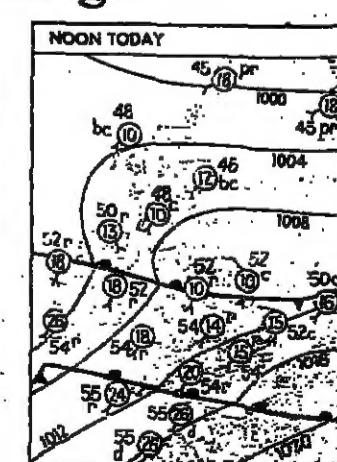
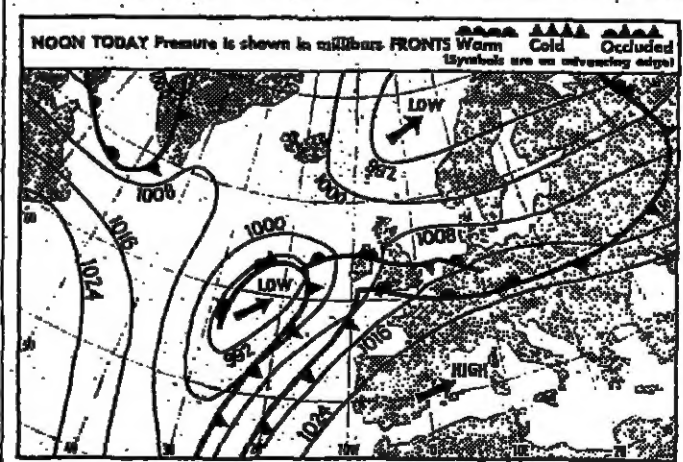
A warrant for the extradition from Canada of Mrs Maurice, former friend of Mr Tom Keating, the artist, who faces conspiracy and deception charges concerning Old Master reproductions, was applied for at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, by counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr David Hopkin, the magistrate, adjourned the proceedings until tomorrow.

## Kidnap charge remand

Juergen Petersen, aged 26, a German, was further remanded in custody for a week at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday after being charged with kidnapping of Felix Wessel, aged four, in Hamburg last month.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today  
Sun rises: 7.8 am  
Sun sets: 4.20 pm  
Moon rises: 4.25 am  
Moon sets: 3.32 pm

New moon: November 11  
Lighting up: 4.50 pm to 6.40 am  
Sunset: 11.11 am  
6.30 am (22.6°). Avonmouth, 5.17 am, 12.30 am (40.4°), 5.34 pm, 12.28 am (41.5°). Dover, 5.4 am, 6.50 am (21.3°), 9.22 pm, 6.50 am (21.4°). Hull, 3.56 am, 6.50 am (22.8°), 4.34 pm, 7.10 am (23.2°). Liverpool, 9.21 am, 8.50 am (29.2°), 9.37 pm, 9.10 am (29.5°).

A moist SW airstream, with troughs of low pressure crossing many areas.  
Forecast for 6 am to midnight:  
London, SW, Central S, England, Channel Islands: Cloudy, rain, heavy at times, becoming drier later; wind SW, increasing to fresh or strong; max temp 13°C (55°F).

East Anglia, NW, Central N, England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Bunchy clouds with rain, heavy in places; wind SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F).

Midlands, Wales: Cloudy, rain, heavy at times; wind SW, increasing to fresh or strong; max temp 13°C (55°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Dry, becoming increasingly cloudy with outbreaks of rain later; wind SW, moderate; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind SW, moderate; max temp 8°C (46°F) to 12°C (54°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Unsettled and windy, rain at times; temp mostly above normal.  
Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel.

Wind: SW, strong, increasing gale; sea very rough.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW to S, fresh, increasing strong; sea rough.

Yesterday  
London: Temp, max, 6 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 69 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.10in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 1.0hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1017.4 millibars, rising, 1,000 millibars = 27.53in.

Overcast setting prices  
Austrian, 52 1/2; Belgium, 48 1/2; Canada, 50; Denmark, 48 1/2; France, 48 1/2; Germany, 48 1/2; Italy, 48 1/2; Japan, 48 1/2; Netherlands, 48 1/2; Norway, 48 1/2; Sweden, 48 1/2; Switzerland, 48 1/2; USA, 48 1/2; UK, 48 1/2.

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## HOME NEWS

## 1.34m new jobs needed by 1981 to reduce workless to 800,000

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Studies by the Manpower Services Commission show that for most people work is a psychological as well as an economic necessity. It stated yesterday that an additional 1,340,000 jobs will be needed by 1981 to reduce unemployment to 800,000. That is not an impossible task, its report asserts.

It urges further study of the implications of early retirement, overeducation and over-qualification. More young people might be encouraged to enter further and higher education, and vocationally oriented education and training expanded for adults.

The document is the first overall five-year forward plan published by the commission since it was established in 1974. An annex says the economy is losing work production worth well over £3,000m a year through unemployment.

Between the second and sixth month of unemployment a married man with two children

might cost the Government more than he would earn at work.

Emphasis is laid on North Sea oil in the fight against unemployment. Manufacturing is not the only wealth-creating sector, the report says. Financial services, tourism and big earners of foreign currency, and that underlines the importance of such sectors as banking and insurance, and hotels and catering, where there might be scope for expansion.

The most desirable sources of higher demand would come from import substitution and increased exports of goods and services.

Developments in Opec and third world countries will significantly increase their capacity in industries traditionally basic to Britain, such as steel-making, car manufacture and textiles, the commission adds. That may lead to world over-capacity.

MSC Review and Plan 1977 (Manpower Services Commission, Sellick House, High Holborn, London, WC1V 6PE).

## Three young arsonists terrorized flats

Three teenagers conducted a campaign of terror by starting fires at tower blocks of flats because they were bored, Mr P. J. Ryan, the recorder, was told at Reading Crown Court yesterday.

They started more than a dozen fires in rubbish chutes and lifts and outside the front door of one flat, in two 14-storey blocks at Reading, it was stated. Once a whole block was evacuated as 10 fire appliances cleared smoke from the building.

Nigel Tegg, aged 19, and his brother, Shaun, aged 18, who live in one of the blocks at Wensley Road, admitted conspiracy to cause fires in March and April this year, were sent to borstal. A boy of 16 who admitted a similar charge was sentenced to three months detention.

Mr Nigel Ruffitt, for the prosecution, said: "These boys caused great misery and suffering by their fire-raising."



Mr Michael Rizzello (left), President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, and Mr Michael McDonald, a design consultant, of McDonald Rowe Ltd, of St Albans, with "Hunting Cheetahs", by Lorne McKee, one of the works to be rented to banks and businesses

## Ulster drive against the pirate taxis

From a Correspondent  
Belfast

The Northern Ireland Office is about to start a campaign against Belfast's so-called "black taxi" fleets which, it believes, contribute funds to the Provisional IRA and "loyalist" terror organizations. The taxis have cost the publicly owned Citybus Company an estimated £2m a year in lost revenues for several years.

The Government's planned drive against the taxis comes after the successful recent Royal Ulster Constabulary campaign against the terrorists' other main source of income, the unlicensed drinking clubs or shebeens.

Already several dozen "black taxi" drivers have prosecutions pending for operating without adequate insurance and are no longer on the road. Others have had their vehicles condemned in recent public service vehicle tests.

The Government's most effective move against the pirate taxis, however, will be rigid enforcement of the law requiring cabs plying for hire to display hackney carriage plates. The battered cabs, often carrying eight or 10 passengers, operate 15p and 20p flat-rate shuttle services from the centre of Belfast along the Falls, Shankill and Shore roads.

In both republican and loyalist areas they have often been used in shooting attacks and armed robberies and for occasional abductions.

Evidence that the drive against them is beginning to be felt is reflected in a recent increased demand for bus services along the Falls and Shankill roads. Citybus has recently put extra vehicles on each route.

The Provisionals' response in the Falls area has been a spate of bus burnings and armed robberies of bus drivers in an attempt to protect the former virtual monopoly of the 350 "black taxis" in the area.

In the loyalist Shankill and Shore road areas about 150 cabs are alleged to contribute revenue to the illegal Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association.

Shops warned: The police warned shopkeepers and shoppers yesterday of a possible new IRA fire-bomb campaign in the United Kingdom (the Press Association reports). Scotland Yard ordered the move after assessing reports of 40 small incendiary bombs found in Ulster in the last two weeks.

## Planning law obscenity is cleared up

By Our Planning Reporter

An apparent obscenity in the planning laws, which persuaded a local authority that it would be liable for compensation if it refused an application, seems to have been clarified.

As reported in *The Times* last Friday, the Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire, considered that outline planning permission for a house at Shellington, granted in 1973, was still valid because details had been submitted within the statutory three-year period, even though they had been rejected.

The council's planning committee decided on Monday evening that it could not grant the applicant's revised submission as a new application.

The Department of the Environment's view that refusal of a detailed application within the period does not prolong the outline permission is supported by a report in the *Journal of Planning and Environment Law* of March, 1975.

It cites a 1969 judgment in which Lord Denning concluded that submission of details within three years could not terminate the time limit. Plan after plan could be submitted, he stated, but if none was approved no more could be submitted after three years.

## Judge praises bravery of policemen

Three policemen who tackled a dangerous man with a knife were commended for bravery by Mr Justice Marsh, sitting at Preston Crown Court, Lancashire, yesterday.

They were Police Constables John David Hives and Frank Williams, PC Wilson, who helped his brother officers even after the knife blade had penetrated his lung.

Police Sergeant Stanley Roberts was trapped in his car with a broken pelvic rib and a suspected fracture of the spine after it had been deliberately rammed. WPC Helen Grogan and PC Brian Marsh were also in the car.

PC Wilson, aged 22, of Desford Road, Preston, was awarded the Merit Award for bravery of the policemen, awarded for rescuing a man. He was jailed for 13 years.

He was said to have been rammed by PC Wilson and PC Hives in Preston town centre and to have struck his way out of their car. He drove off in his own vehicle, in which he rammed the police car.

The court was told that after PC Hives got back in the neck and was about to be rammed again, PC Wilson, although suffering from a collapsed lung, lured Mr Lawrence away from the police car.

On the beat, 3: Why senior policemen refuse promotion that means loss of overtime  
When the rewards are not appropriate to the dangersBy Peter Evans,  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The alarm clock went off at about 3 a.m. Police Constable Peter Rush got up and made a cup of coffee. His wife, Sue, confessed later that she had hardly slept that night. "I was very much on edge," she said. She had begun feeling like that only since her husband was called to duty at the Greenwich dispute.

PC Rush did not feel like sleeping before driving off to Harrow Road, where he has been stationed since he joined the Metropolitan Police 13 years ago.

There, at the 4.15 a.m. parade, he heard a chief inspector giving advice, mainly for the benefit of the young policemen on whom much of the burden of ordinary policing falls because so many experienced men have left the force. The advice was of restraint: "Don't get involved; keep together; don't respond to baiting or break ranks to let them through."

The coach left at 4.30 a.m. and disgorged the Harrow Road contingent to join others for breakfast strategically near Greenwich.

Outside the gates he and his fellow officers waited and watched. Some local demonstrators waved, port-wined, and some of the coaches coming down

the M1 carrying more pickets had been delayed by fog. Officers joked among themselves that it would be a good idea if the Police Federation came along carrying a banner too.

The crowd thickened. PC Rush said afterwards: "We were being invaded by some of the people making speeches. Blokes were trying to get involved in arguments. We were accused of provoking them by being there. The double-decker bringing in the workers was late and we were accused of assisting them to get in."

The Special Patrol Group escorted the bus in. "We were right in front of the gates. Then the crowd tried to break through. We had our backs to them, arms linked. You get kicked in the back and legs. It is hard to pick anyone out. They only do it when your back is to them."

PC Rush was also in the forefront of the police action when violence broke out at the Notting Hill carnival. He had been trained to carry a riot shield, but found himself without one, along with other officers forming a human wall across Portobello Road, helping to seal off the trouble area.

At 10 p.m. his wife, who had seen the controversy on television ("I must be a bit of a masochist") telephoned the

police station to find out what had happened to him, as he had not returned home.

She was told there was no news of his being injured, so he would be all right. "Don't expect him until 2 am or 3 am," she was told.

She stayed awake until he arrived safely.

Police-constables Rush says that the public do not know about the risks that policemen take in the ordinary course of their jobs, in spite of publicity given to exceptional incidents.

He was on duty late at night when a woman in a public house telephoned to say she had seen intruders in a confecturer's next door. To get in, he and other officers woke the people in the next house and edged along a six-inch ledge high above the street. One of the burglars tried to escape that way, so "we chased him."

Sometimes policemen are injured. One was pushed into a disused lift shaft. Another was pushed out of a second-floor window while holding on to a burglar and ended up at basement level sitting in an old armchair.

Because there is a tradition of sons and even daughters following fathers into police service, the pressure can affect whole families. Detective Chief Superintendent Frank Carter, head of the illegal immigrants and extradition squad at Scotland Yard, has two sons in the force. Both have been injured.

Mr Carter was the man who snatched the handcuffs on the wrists of Reginald Kray, thus helping to end a notorious crime empire. With other detectives Mr Carter burst into the home of the Kray twins at 6 a.m. "We found Reggie and Ronnie in bed. They were sound asleep. They were handcuffed before they woke up."

He and other officers may make headlines with the cases they clear up, but their police duty about pay has been drowned by the campaign of the Police Federation, which represents ranks up to chief inspector.

On an important inquiry when "you may get no sleep at all in the first 48 hours and hardly a change of shirt," they can expect to earn less than lower ranks who are entitled to overtime pay. Of uniformed chief inspectors in the Metropolitan Police, 79 per cent earn more than bottom rate superintendents, who lose overtime on promotion.

The result is that some chief inspectors do not want promotion, as they get more money for taking less responsibility. The police chiefs do not begrudge the men their due reward for danger, long hours and stress. Nor do those I talked to want overtime. But they do

feel that they should get enough pay to cover their extra responsibility.

During an inquiry led by Detective Superintendent Raymond Small into the murder of a man found badly slashed in a bath, another body was discovered in the boot of a car, decomposed so badly that fingerprints could not be taken, and the investigations turned up other offences that brought in 30 other prisoners.

The statements taken in the inquiry are neatly bound in nine volumes, each the length of a novel, on the shelf of his office.

Both Mr Small and Mr Carter have worked in A10, the branch created by Sir Robert Mark as part of his drive against corruption. A10 investigates serious complaints against the police.

That was like a stick. Policemen feel that the carrot should be enough pay to reduce the possibility of temptation. The policeman is in a unique position to contrast the rewards of sin and virtue.

Through plain clothes work on vice patrol, PC Rush knows of prostitutes being able to earn between £150 and £200 a night. That cannot buy them peace of mind, but he sometimes wonders about society's values. "He has become more cynical now," his wife says.

Next:  
On the beat in Manchester

## How informant disclosed Cabinet secrets on the child-benefit scheme

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, will disclose today one of the techniques used for passing secret information by the source who last year leaked to him a verbatim account of Cabinet discussions on the child benefit scheme.

"Deep Throat", as Mr Field calls his informant, would transmit information with other people present while taking part in a discussion. Mr Field would ask individuals what they thought the most likely cause of events would be on a particular issue. They would reply in turn and Mr Field would treat "Deep Throat's" answer as definitive.

In his Quetta Rabley Memorial Lecture, to be delivered this afternoon at Southwark College, south London, Mr Field will explain how his method enabled him to communicate with "Deep Throat" without incurring suspicion. The device was especially useful during the investigation ordered by the Prime Minister after extracts from the Cabinet minutes had been published by *New Society*.

in an article by Mr Field in June 1976.

Once the official investigations were under way into the Cabinet leak, it was of crucial importance that Deep Throat and I knew what each other was thinking and saying. I relayed as much information as possible about my moves, what I was and was not saying, over the radio and television and in the newspapers," Mr Field says.

"I also asked Deep Throat's advice on what I should be doing. Whenever Deep Throat was part of a group of people who wanted to talk about the Cabinet leak, I would ask what they thought 'Deep Throat' would suggest as the next move. Much advice was offered by this means, including the crucial advice from 'Deep Throat'."

"By using this technique, and with the help of the media who relayed so much information as legitimate news, I never contemplated clandestine meetings or trying to make contact by telephone. The tappings of my telephone were therefore unsuccessful."

Without naming him, Mr Field discloses how Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State

for Energy, disposed of Mr Callaghan's attempt to have him questioned about the leak, along with other Ministers, by Commander Roy Habershon of Scotland Yard. Mr Benn told the Prime Minister that if he was ordered to meet, Commander Habershon would ask Lord Layton, Headmaster of St Marylebone to be present as his legal adviser. Nothing more was heard from No 10.

Mr Field explains textual inaccuracies in the documents disclosed by the New Society article, inaccuracies which led to the official Civil Service inquiry into the leak, led by Sir Douglas Allen, head of the home Civil Service, to conclude that it had been perpetrated by a junior official scribbling notes in haste as secret documents passed across his desk. Mr Field is in the habit of dictating his articles and in this way errors creep in. He later destroyed the documents in his possession from which he was reading aloud.

Mr Field sought and secured the permission of "Deep Throat" to make today's disclosures. Neither Sir Douglas Allen nor Commander Habershon succeeded in identifying the informant.

## Man stripped of 'virtually everything'

Ronald Eric Swords-Lindsay, aged 59, was jailed at Oxford Crown Court yesterday for four years after admitting dishonestly obtaining £9,382 from Mr John Woodward between February, 1974, and May, 1975, by falsely representing that the money would be invested.

He also admitted stealing £1,759 from the Royal Insurance Company and asked for six further offences to be taken into consideration.

Judge Mynett, QC, said: "You deliberately stripped that man of virtually everything he possessed."

Mr Louis Barrett, for the prosecution, said that Mr Swords-Lindsay used Mr Woodward's money for his own living expenses and to pay off his bills. Aged 59, Mr Woodward lost £12,932.

Mr Swords-Lindsay, formerly of Great Milton, Oxfordshire, visited Mr Woodward as an insurance representative in 1972.

Mr Woodward took out a policy and later made a further investment through Mr Swords-Lindsay, and they became friends.

Mr Swords-Lindsay, an undischarged bankrupt, now living at Little Hanford School, Blandford, Dorset, put the money into his wife's and daughter's bank accounts. The two women later made big cash withdrawals, counsel said.

The theft from the Royal Insurance Company occurred when Mr Swords-Lindsay under took to insure Pengehill Park, a country hotel at Bagshot, Surrey, but he used the money for himself.

## Public school ethic 'in some comprehensives'

Comprehensive schools that continue to foster the Victorian public school ethic of leadership, based on a purely academic curriculum and sport, were criticized on Monday by Mr Oakes, Minister of State for Education and Science. That ethic was one of the reasons for the poor image of industry in schools, he suggested.

Addressing a conference on industry and education in the European Economic Community at the Lancaster College for Adult Education, he said that a public school ethic of leadership, founded on sport and a wholly academic curriculum with its outlets in colonial administration, the universities, and the professions such as the Church and the law, developed imperial consciousness.

That tradition continued in direct grammar and other grammar schools, which aped the public schools as closely as possible. A small number of comprehensives foster it still.

## Man freed after being held six months for trial

Gordon Orchard, aged 45, was freed with an 18-month suspended jail sentence at the Central Criminal Court on Monday after he had been accused of murder and manslaughter.

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, for the defence, said at a previous hearing that the case was profoundly disturbing.

He expressed concern that a man can be held in custody charged with murder, and later sent to the Central Criminal Court accused of manslaughter, when all the evidence pointed to his complete innocence.

Mr Orchard, a former amateur boxing champion and guardman of Waterloo Road, London, admitted causing minor injuries to Mr William Tolmie, aged 64. His jail sentence was suspended for two years after he Crown had accepted his plea of not guilty to manslaughter.

Mr Neil Devlin, for the prosecution, said that in a public house in Southwark, Mr Orchard hit Mr Tolmie, who was in a troublesome mood, across the face with the back of his hand, cutting his lip. He walked out.

The next day Mr Tolmie arrived at work with a grazed head and black eyes. He could not explain the injuries but there was no suggestion that Mr Orchard was responsible.

He worked normally for a week but then collapsed and died from brain damage. Mr Orchard was charged with murder.

## Noise council urges limits for helicopters

By Our Planning Reporter

The relatively new and, in most areas, still limited nuisance of helicopter noise has grown enough to attract the attention of the Noise Advisory Council.

In a report published yesterday, the council observes that so far it is mainly small coastal communities that have suffered from helicopter operations by the Armed Services. The only scheduled helicopter service in Britain at present is between Penzance and the Isle of Scilly.

But the growth of the offshore oil industry in Scotland and the importance attached by businessmen to short journey times mean that the use of helicopters is likely to increase. With uncontrolled growth, their noise in urban areas might

present a nuisance in the future.

Among the measures the report recommends are the imposition of noise limits, modified flying techniques, including steeper angles of approach, and a revision of present policy on routes. Research work by manufacturers into reducing noise should be supported, and consideration given to amending planning laws to regulate the use of private sites, it is argued.

The report finds no justification for increasing traffic at Battersea helicopter, and says the possibility of a new site further east, convenient for the City and not requiring helicopters to overfly west or central London, should be examined.

*Helicopter Noise in the London Area* (Stationery Office, 45p).

## Six years for stabbing PC

A judge at the Central Criminal Court, jailing a young Millwall football supporter for six years for wounding a police officer, gave a warning on Monday that any supporter convicted of using an offensive weapon could expect no mercy.

In a strong attack on football hooligans, Judge King-Hamilton, QC, spoke of a minority bent on creating havoc and said that they should not be surprised if they were dealt with very severely.

Derek Thompson, aged 19, a warehouseman, of Forest Hill, London, was found guilty of wounding Police Constable Patrick Healy, aged 25, with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm. He had denied the charge.

The court was told that Mr Thompson stabbed the officer twice in the back. Mr Thompson said that he had taken the knife to the match at Stamford Bridge in case of trouble, but had used it on the officer "on the spur of the moment."



Monaco's spectacular new Centre for conferences and exhibitions, built off the Mediterranean shoreline on reclaimed land linked to the heart of Monte-Carlo, will be opened in Autumn 1978. The new Monte-Carlo Convention Centre, with its superb location and resources, will offer all the elements required for a successful business meeting.

The Centre will accommodate up to 1,200 delegates in its main auditorium, and includes smaller meeting rooms, administrative offices, services, foyer space, and a full range of advanced technical equipment. The Centre is fully adaptable for concerts, films, variety shows, recording sessions and much else.

The existing conference facilities will continue to operate alongside the Monte-Carlo Convention Centre. Traditional and modern hotels and an unparalleled reputation for serving business meeting needs makes Monte-Carlo a unique conference venue.

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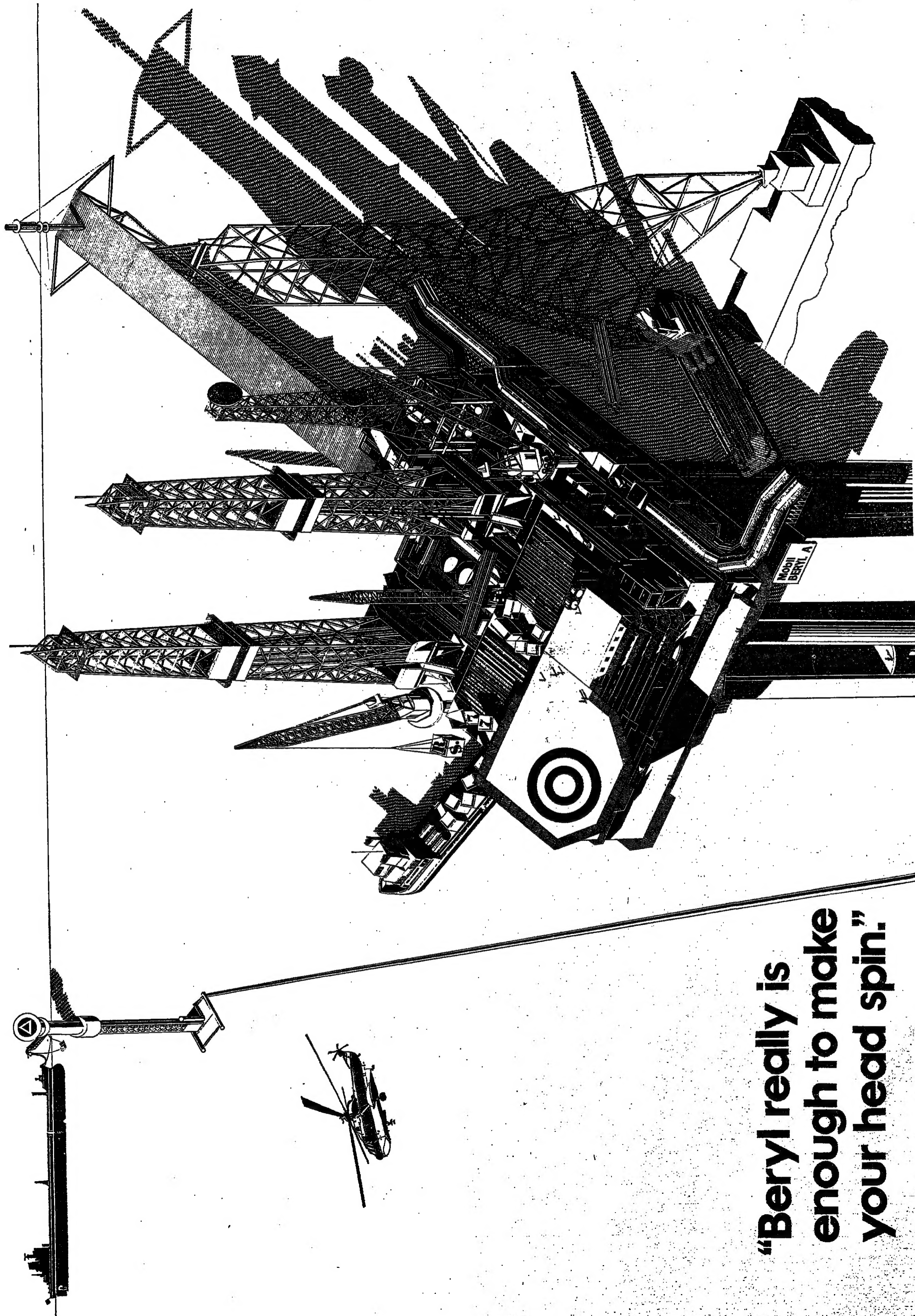
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**"Beryl really is  
enough to make  
your head spin."**

*Facing in your mind Lord's Cricket ground, sitting higher than the Post Office Tower atop these giant concrete columns. And picture all around the base of the columns a city of...*



Picture in your mind Lord's Cricket Ground, sitting higher than the Post Office Tower atop three giant concrete columns. And picture also, around the base of the columns, a cluster of storage tanks large enough to fill Piccadilly Circus — and taller than a 16-storey building.

You have now grasped the basic outlines of the Mobil Beryl A producing platform. To complete the illusion, however, you must finally imagine the structure immersed in water for three-quarters of its height.

The Beryl platform rests on the sea bed, 95 miles southeast of the Shetland Islands, over an estimated 400 million barrels of recoverable oil. It touched down on the sea floor on July 9, 1975 — three years after a rock chip broken away by the drill bit told Mobil geologists there was oil in Block 9/13.

The interval between these two events was taken up with assessing the significance of that first trace of oil, and designing and building the facilities necessary for its recovery.

The platform's massive concrete legs are hollow; 20 wells each will be drilled through two of them from derricks on the main deck. Ten of the wells will be used for the injection of gas and sea water into the formation, maintaining the pressure needed to keep oil flowing toward the 30 producing wells, and promoting efficient oil recovery.

The Beryl discovery well is connected to the platform's producing system by a pipeline along the sea bed. It was drilled from a floating rig three years before the platform was installed, and now produces through a remotely-controlled subsea system incorporating several important technical innovations.

To operate, equipment on the platform requires electrical generators capable of supplying the domestic requirements of a city the size of Plymouth. Other facilities separate gas from the oil and compress the gas for injection back into the field. Up to 300 men have been temporarily housed on the platform during the final stages of construction and the start of drilling. Under normal operating conditions the platform will house about 200 men on 12-hour shifts. Duty tours are 14 days on and 14 days off.

Standard quarters in the accommodation section of the platform have been designed for two-person occupancy, with private toilets and showers. Catering and housekeeping services are provided by independent organisations under contract to Mobil.

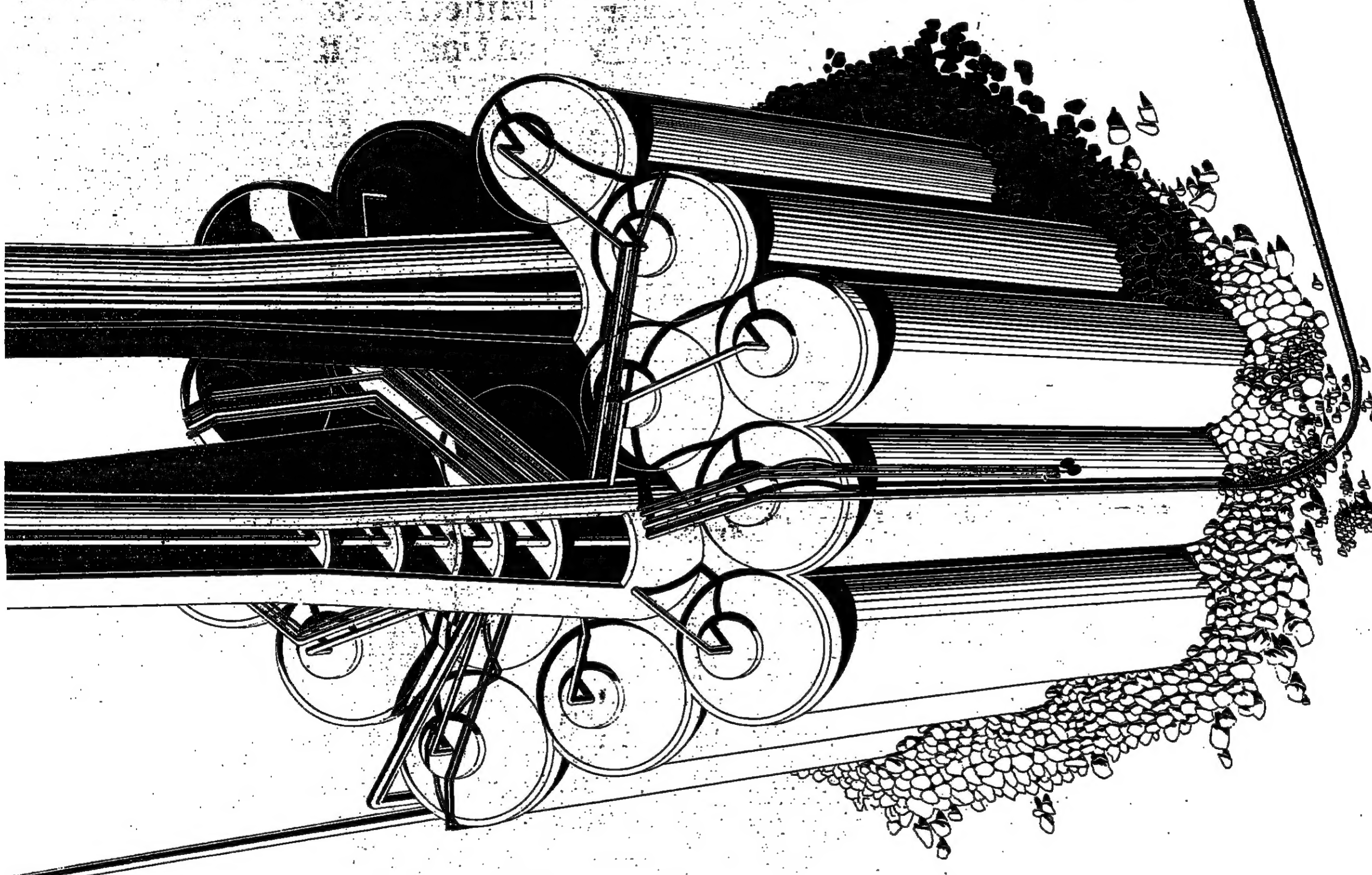
As Beryl A was the North Sea's first installation of its type, so the mile-distant Single-Point Mooring (SPM) is the first such tanker loading facility to come into service. The 50-storey tall SPM is fixed to the sea bed by a 1,400-ton steel and concrete base, which is itself two storeys high. A 110-foot steel boom juts from the top of the SPM, whose rotating head permits tankers to approach and moor from any direction, as wind and current dictate.

Oil from the Beryl platform's 900,000 barrel capacity storage cells is pumped through a 32-inch diameter submarine pipeline into the base of the SPM, and thence through a 16-inch hose into the waiting tanker. Two specially-designed tankers shuttle between Beryl and refineries in the U.K. calling at the tower on an average of one every five days. The 600-foot bridge off one side of the Beryl platform is a catwalk and is supported by a concrete base resting on the sea bed, carries a standby gas flaring system.

Safety, environmental safeguards, personnel comfort and operating efficiency were given the highest priorities during every stage of the design and construction of the Beryl complex. Of prime importance was the ability to withstand the severity of a North Sea winter. Experience has shown that it can.

"The platform was built to weather 100-foot seas and 120 mile-an-hour winds", says Byron Sims, Mobil's exploration and producing manager for the North Sea. "In January 1976 we had 95 mile-an-hour winds and it was no different from being in an office".

Not quite, however. There are few, if any, office blocks in the world whose cost can match the £200 million cost of the Beryl complex.



**Mobil**

No 5 in a series on North Sea operations.  
For the complete set, write to: Manager, Public Affairs, Mobil North Sea Limited,  
Mobil Court, 3 Clementine Inn, London WC2A 2EB



## HOME NEWS

## Conspiracy on illegal immigrants alleged

By a Staff Reporter

An international conspiracy to import illegal immigrants from India and Pakistan into Britain was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

It involved the use of genuine British passports, which had been obtained by means of bogus birth certificates stolen from Somerset House in 1973. The police, it was alleged, broke up the group operating the racket after immigration officers at Folkestone had become suspicious of three Asians who arrived on a ferry from Ostend. One was unable to read his false passport and another could not fully understand English.

Surinder Gill, aged 24, of Holly Road, Northampton, pleaded not guilty to conspiring to make untrue statements in order to procure passports for himself and others, and to conspiring to obtain British passports containing false particulars so as to secure the entry of people he knew to be illegal immigrants.

Mr Brian Watling, for the prosecution, said: "This defendant is part of a larger international conspiracy to import illegal entrants into this country."

He said that people who wanted bogus passports were found in India by Mr Agil Gill, the defendant's uncle. Mr Gill was now in India and unlikely to return to Britain.

Surinder Gill had acted as a go-between for his uncle and Arnold Futerman, a former salesman at Gieves and Hawkes, the Savile Row tailors. Mr Watling said Mr Futerman, aged 53, had pleaded guilty at a separate hearing to charges similar to those denied by Mr Surinder Gill.

Mr Futerman, Mr Watling alleged, had a contact in Switzerland, a Kim Maharaj, after Indian or Pakistani customers had been found by Mr Agil Gill or Mr Maharaj, details necessary for passport applications were sent either directly to Mr Futerman or indirectly to him through Surinder Gill.

The hearing continues today.

## Tour company's promise on timetables

A British package-holiday agency promised yesterday to operate all the charter flights in its 1978 programme, even if only one passenger turns up for a flight.

The move by Cosmos Holidays heralds a possible end to the situation where times of flights and even airports for departure and destination are altered after bookings, because aircraft are not full.

Mr Sidney Silver, managing director of Cosmos, said yesterday: "We are guaranteeing to operate like a scheduled airline but at competitive charter prices." The premium people paid to take holiday flights on a scheduled airline was no longer necessary.

Thousands of holiday bookings for next summer. "Early demand for holidays has been higher than at any time since 1974", the company said. Confidence in the economy and the likelihood of further inflation had given the package-tour industry a welcome boost.

## No dance licence

Sheffield University Students' Union failed yesterday in an application for a public music and dancing licence on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

## Secretary 'dismissed because of his sex'

By Annabel Ferriman

Mr Anwar Amer, a male secretary, was dismissed because of his sex and his refusal to make coffee and sandwiches, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

In February he lost his £3,500 post at General Products and Fibres Ltd, of London Bridge, after seven months as secretary to Mr Muzaffar Peracha, the chairman. The company made no comment on the reasons for his late arrival, his refusal to work revised office hours until 6 pm every day or to work on Saturdays unless he was paid overtime.

Mr Amer, aged 32, of South Norwood, London, contends that the real reason was his sex, and he is demanding reinstatement under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act. He also alleges that he was denied promotion because of his sex and was paid less than female secretaries in the company.

He told the tribunal that

Debate held in shadow of Vatican declaration on ethics  
Synod initiates a search for new standards of Christian sexuality

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

In a mood of disenchantment with traditional sexual morality yesterday, the General Synod of the Church of England set in train the search for a new set of standards to make better sense of such issues as contraception, masturbation and premarital sexual intercourse.

The synod voted by a majority of more than two hundred for a motion declaring that "the time has come for a new look at the whole Christian theology of sexuality in the light of present theological and psychiatric understanding".

The debate was partly an echo of decisions in the Roman Catholic Church. It began with a motion proposed by Canon Douglas Rhymer, of Southwark, critical of the recent Vatican Declaration on Sexual Ethics.

He referred repeatedly to a tract by Dr Jack Donnelly, a Canadian Catholic priest, entitled *Proposals for a New Sexual Ethic*. The book takes issue with the Vatican declaration.

Canon Rhymer said participation in the Playboy philosophy starts from the Manichaean premise that the flesh is evil: "the one believing that as a result it should be mortified, the other that because it is evil it does not matter how much we mortify and degrade sexuality".

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Full reports and debates on marriage and



## Non-speech estranges Spanish and Kremlin

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Nov. 8

Relations between the Spanish Communist Party and Moscow appear to have reached an all-time low as a result of the dispute between Carlos Santiago Carrillo and the Kremlin leadership over the speech which he wanted to deliver during the anniversary celebrations of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Many have been the differences between Señor Carrillo and the Kremlin. He condemned the 1968 intervention in Czechoslovakia and his book *Eurocommunism and the State* provoked accusations of traitor to the Soviet cause. From the version, given by Tass as to what happened last week in Moscow it seems Señor Carrillo is now regarded as a liar.

Tass insisted that Señor Carrillo was not banned from making his speech but arrived too late to deliver it. Carrillo is adamant that he was banned and last night boycotted the reception given by the Soviet Embassy in Madrid to mark the anniversary.

Nevertheless, the Spanish party has no intention of breaking with Moscow. "That would be to behave like a child," a member of the executive committee said. On the other hand, the Spanish party is not expecting to see much of Moscow in the near future either in the form of visits there or to receive delegations in Madrid.

Señor Carrillo's speech, which he has since said he tore up, would have been no stronger than the one given by Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian leader, the source said. Only passing reference would have been made to the party's conception of socialism in Spain.

Señor Carrillo did not go to Moscow to suit it to his face. The Spanish party believes that the Kremlin may be trying to split the Eurocommunist movement, or it could be that preference was given to Signor Berlinguer because his party is very much more to power than that in Spain.

But although Señor Carrillo's party is small and has only 20 seats in Congress, the lower House of the Cortes, the Kremlin's source said, regards him as a far more serious threat.

The "hawks" in the Kremlin are outraged by his outspoken theories—that socialism can only come to developed Western countries through respect for democracy—while the "doves" want to take a softer line realizing that the kind of treatment given him is counterproductive.

The party believes that the hawks won the day because of the continued and obsessive fear which Moscow has over the spectre of dissent.

Señor Carrillo could now in the East European countries. The Kremlin fears that his waving of the flag of independence from Moscow could have serious repercussions.

The Spanish party feels that Moscow now regrets what it has done and neither side knows what will be the next step.

Señor Carrillo has no intention of renouncing his foreign policy ideas with Eurocommunism as a separate force from Nato and the Warsaw Pact. He left for Yugoslavia today for a meeting with President Tito and then goes on to Rome to see Signor Berlinguer.

The party will continue to broaden its contacts. The source said that as a result of the latest Moscow treatment, it would probably be easier to start relations between the party and China.

But the visit which Moscow most dislikes is the one next week when Señor Carrillo goes to the United States as the first invited Eurocommunist leader.

While there are no fixed contacts with the Carter Administration there will be meetings at some level for the source said, the new Administration was interested to know what Eurocommunism was all about.

Professor called in to tackle Dutch crisis

The Hague, Nov. 8.—Queen Juliana today appointed a university professor to make a fresh attempt to find ways of putting together a new coalition Cabinet and so end six months of government.

Mr Joop den Uyl, the caretaker Labour Party Prime Minister, failed last Friday in attempts to build a new centre-left coalition with the Christian Democrats.

A statement today said Professor Willem van der Grinten, a Christian Democrat, had been asked to study "ways which could lead to the formation of a Cabinet which would have sufficient support in Parliament".

Reuter.

The youngest of Dutch sextuplets dies

Rotterdam, Nov. 8.—Holland's first family of sextuplets today lost its youngest and least robust member—Dennis.

The baby died in a Rotterdam children's clinic despite every medical effort to overcome a pernicious intestinal ailment. He was seven weeks and two days old.

Dennis was one of the two boys and four girls born to Joyden on September 18 to Urs Cornelia Nijssen, the wife of a Dutch steel worker. The other five children are all doing well and will be allowed to go home individually "as they become ready", a hospital spokesman said.—AP.

## OVERSEAS

## Airlines prepare for worldwide price war as IATA chiefs decide to give up 'cartel role'

From Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent Madrid, Nov. 8

Executive of the world's major airlines are moving rapidly towards adopting a free-for-all policy on fares rather than having them fixed by the International Air Transport Association.

Instead of all charging the same prices, as they do now, airlines are in the market place, one IATA executive said here today.

This new policy, which will lead to cheaper air fares on many international routes, was agreed by an unpublished meeting of the influential executive committee of IATA during its annual meeting in Madrid this week.

The executive committee is alarmed by the growing criticism of IATA as a "price-fixing cartel", which governments are making as a result of the marketing of cheap-fare services like the Skytrain on the North Atlantic by Laker Airways, a non-IATA airline.

Industry leaders are anxious to have a system tried for 12 months under which IATA will establish broad marketing concepts. It will then be up to individual airlines, in competition with each other, to package and price the flights.

Most of them are confident that governments will soon discover that this will lead to such confusion that they will be glad to have IATA resume its traditional role in establishing fares.

Airline industry leaders are also worried about the cost of what they call "environmental overkill"—severe restrictions on the noise that aircraft make around airports.

Their view is that the industry should not be responsible for aircraft which were bought in another age with the support and certification of governments.

The industry estimates it incurs charges of £120m a year for noise suppression measures. It believes that additional charges will make it more difficult to finance quieter aircraft.

Executives are also expressing alarm at the impact on their finances of the charges made by governments for navigation services between countries.

Their feeling is that the industry is being "milked" by excessive user charges. They estimate that between 1974 and 1979 the cost of navigation will have gone up by 500 per cent.

Mr Knut Hammarskjöld, the director-general of IATA, commented: "The indecent haste with which some states wish to recover 100 per cent or more of their navigation costs is astonishing, bordering in mind on the concern of these same authorities for lower air fares."

Airline executives are also incensed at the growing policy by governments to recover from airlines the entire cost of security measures against hijackings. They believe this ignores the fact that the crime of hijacking is aimed at governments and society and not at airlines, their passengers and crews.

In his annual report, Mr Hammarskjöld said: "Charging a fee for ensuring basic human rights—the freedom of safe movement by air from one country to another—isn't that close to a protection racket?"

Hijackings appeal: An impassioned appeal for governments to put aside party political considerations in the fight against hijackings won the unanimous backing of the IATA meeting.

Mr Hammarskjöld rebuked governments which had failed to ratify the Tokyo, The Hague and Montreal conventions against hijacking.

IATA officials said 392 hijack attempts had been made since 1969, of which 201 were successful. Last year, about 2,000 passengers—out of a total of 580 million—were affected by 19 hijack attempts, of which six were successful.—Reuter and UPI.

Our Bonn Correspondent writes: Lufthansa, the West German airline, cancelled today's flight to and from Algeria because there was no agreement on adequate security measures.

The West German Government is understood to be pressuring the Algerian Government to allow West German security men to check passengers and luggage of Lufthansa flights, as is already being done at 13 other airports where passengers are regarded as insufficient.

Government sources said Algeria had given an "unsatisfactory" reply and efforts to reach an agreement were continuing.

Albanian leader heaps praise on Stalin

Vienna, Nov. 8.—Mr Mehmet Shehu, the Albanian Prime Minister, underscored today his country's isolationist course as he praised Stalin, denounced the Soviet "revisionists" in power, and refrained from mentioning communist China, Albania's ideological ally for many years.

The fresh commitment to Stalinism and the anti-Soviet stance was at the centre of Mr Shehu's speech made in Tirana, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary celebrations of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The grandeur and the momentum of the socialist October Revolution and its ideas, such that they cannot in the least be tarnished by any betrayal, neither that of the revisionist Soviet leaders, nor that of all the modern revisionists and the other opportunists, in the "betrayal" of the Soviet Union, cannot be degraded and denigrate the immortal work of Lenin and Stalin.

The main speech, delivered by Mr Hymni Kapo, a secretary of the party's Central Committee, was riddled into one of the most virulent attacks on the present Soviet leadership.

Mr Kapo said "the need to intensify the struggle for the denunciation of the ideological platform of Soviet revisionism and of the political activity of the present day Soviet Union continues to remain the order of the day and constitutes an imperative obligation for all Marxist-Leninists, for all revolutionaries, as well as for all those who defend true liberty and true national independence."

Mr Kapo claimed that Nikita Khrushchev and his "clique" had betrayed Marxism-Leninism and the revolution.

Unlike previous years, the Albanian leaders abstained from heaping praise on the Chinese communists. The absence of any direct reference to the Peking leadership confirmed the troubled relations between the two countries on both state and party level.

But there was an oblique reference to the "other opportunists" in Mr Shehu's address, something that may have been aimed at the present more pragmatic Chinese leadership.—AP.

Students' union leader appeals to Mr Brezhnev

Miss Sue Slipman, president of the National Union of Students, has written to President Brezhnev demanding action in the case of a detained British student.

Andrei Klymchuk, a 21-year-old student teacher at Hull College of Higher Education, is being held at Lvov in the Ukraine on suspicion of anti-Soviet activities. He was arrested on August 1 during a holiday trip.

Miss Slipman, who is herself a Communist, told President Brezhnev that Mr Klymchuk had been held beyond the two-month period of arrest after which, under the Soviet constitution, charges must be laid. So far, no charges have been made public.

Dissident to visit Britain

Warsaw, Nov. 8.—Mr Jan Jozef Lipski, a prominent Polish dissident, has received permission to go to Britain for urgent heart surgery after authorities earlier refused him a passport, in what they described as "a mistake".

His family said today, of his 51-year-old literary critic and leading member of the dissident Public Self-Defence Committee, Mr Lipski was told by Poland's top heart specialist to have an operation abroad as it would be too risky to have it done here.—Reuter.

## Tokyo stops passports to prevent hijacking

From Peter Hazell, Tokyo, Nov. 8

Under a new set of measures designed to thwart the activities of Japanese terrorists, the Government announced today that the 5,600,000 valid Japanese passports would be withdrawn and replaced with new documents.

The decision was taken five weeks after a group of armed Japanese terrorists, carrying false passports, hijacked a Japanese airliner in Dacca. They then forced the Government to release six prisoners, and pay more than £3.3m in ransom money to the terrorist group calling itself the Japanese Red Army in exile.

The five terrorists and the six prisoners were allowed to land in Algeria. A government spokesman said tonight that the Algerian Government had so far ignored requests for the return of the prisoners and the ransom money.

The Japanese police later discovered that the hijackers, with their arms concealed in line of biscuits, had boarded the airliner at Bombay airport.

The Cabinet also decided to introduce a driver system for the inspection of the luggage and personal belongings of air travellers. Japan Airlines will introduce a double system of checking passengers and luggage at 17 international airports.

Tokyo, Nov. 8.—The Japanese Government today approved the use of a "special police unit" to combat the Japanese Red Army terrorists.

## TV producer's refusal to disclose thoughts upheld

## Editorial process protected from investigation by US court

New York, Nov. 8.—Journalists cannot be compelled to disclose the thoughts and opinions they held when they were preparing a news story, even if the story is attacked in a libel suit, a federal appeals court in Manhattan has decided.

The strongly-worded decision was described by lawyers in the case as the first time that a court had ruled that the First Amendment provided protection against an inquiry into the thought process of a journalist being sued for libel.

In the two-to-one decision, written by Chief Judge Irving Kaufman, the court reversed a ruling by a lower court that had ordered a broad inquiry into a libel suit against the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The suit was filed by former Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Herbert, who contended that he had been defamed by a CBS programme in 1973, which cast doubt on his charges that Army officers had covered up atrocities by American troops in the Vietnam war.

In preparing for the libel action, Colonel Herbert's lawyers questioned Mr Barry Lando, a producer of the programme, who was named in the suit together with Mr Mike Wallace, a correspondent. Mr Lando refused to answer some questions about his thoughts and opinions in preparing the programme, on the ground that these questions infringed on an editorial process protected by the First Amendment.

The federal district court ruled that the inquiry into Mr

Lando's thought process was justified, because Colonel Herbert was a public figure whose libel case would depend on whether he could prove that the programme involved actual malice or reckless disregard of the truth.

Reversing this ruling, Judge Kaufman declared that the questions about Mr Lando's thoughts and opinions "strike to the heart of the vital human component of the editorial process. Faced with the possibility of such an inquisition reporters and journalists would be reluctant to express their doubts."

"The tendency would be to follow the safe course of avoiding contention and controversy—the antithesis of the values fostered by the First Amendment."

"We cannot permit inquiry into Lando's thoughts, opinions and conclusions to consume the very values which the Sullivan landmark decision sought to safeguard."

This was a reference to the 1964 case of *The New York Times* versus *Sullivan*, which resulted in the Supreme Court's far-reaching decision that a public figure must prove actual malice or reckless disregard of the truth in order to sustain a libel claim.

Mr Richard Salant, President of BS News, commented yesterday that Judge Kaufman's decision was "terribly, terribly important", because broad inquiries into the editorial process could virtually wipe Sullivan off the books.

Mr Floyd Abrams, a lawyer who represented CBS in the appeal, said that Judge Kaufman's decision was a sensitive and eloquent affirmation of First Amendment principles.

Mr Jonathan Lubell, a lawyer for Colonel Herbert, noted that the appeals court was divided on the issue and added that "we certainly are considering an appeal". He said Colonel Herbert was trying to call the public's attention to the conduct of government in condoning war crimes.

Mr Lubell said the ability of any private citizen effectively to criticize government, if the press does not want to entertain that criticism, has now been foreclosed under the guise of freedom of the press.

The Herbert libel suit seeks \$44m (about £24m) in damages from the CBS defendants and *Atlantic Monthly* magazine, which printed an article about the programme. In Judge Kaufman's words, both the programme and the article "cast serious doubts upon Herbert's veracity" and concluded that the American press had been deluded by Herbert's story.

The disputed questions that the district court had ordered Mr Lando to answer included his conclusions about what leads to follow in the Herbert story.

Judge Kaufman instructed the lower court judge to re-evaluate the questions "in light of the principles articulated in this opinion"—New York Times News Service.

## Their technical spec is a lot more expensive than their price.

### 'Best Buys'

The top loading AD 1250 and the front loading AD 6300 are the two most inexpensive cassette decks made by Aiwa. In 'Hi-Fi Choice—Cassette Decks and Tapes', a book which reviews all of the cassette decks currently available in Britain, the reviewer unhesitatingly selects both as 'Best Buys'.

### Outstanding Performance

The reason why is that the two decks achieve a highly creditable wow and flutter figure of only 0.09% (WRMS).

Both have signal to noise ratios as high as 58dB (FeCr tape, Dolby on, DIN).

Both give an admirably flat response curve within the 30 to 16,000 Hz range (FeCr tape).

### Sophisticated Facilities

Aiwa's unique oil-damped ejection system is used in both models to take maximum care of your cassettes.

Each deck features independent Bias and Equalisation with settings for LH, CrO<sub>2</sub> and FeCr.

Dolby\* circuitry is built into both and is linked to an MPX filter for quality FM recording.

Other common features include a full automatic stop mechanism; much underrated facilities for cue/review; output level control; and a tape counter.

Hear Aiwa

If your dealer is unable to demonstrate the full Aiwa range, hear the AD 1250 and 6300 at Aiwa's brand new premises in the Brunswick Centre, opposite London's Russell Square Station.

Upgrade to

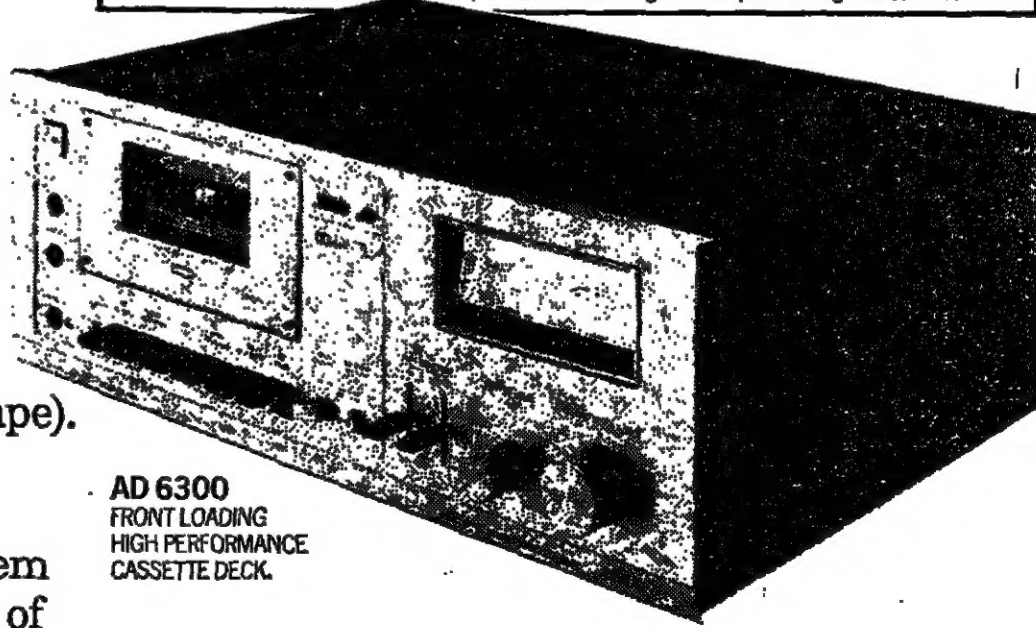
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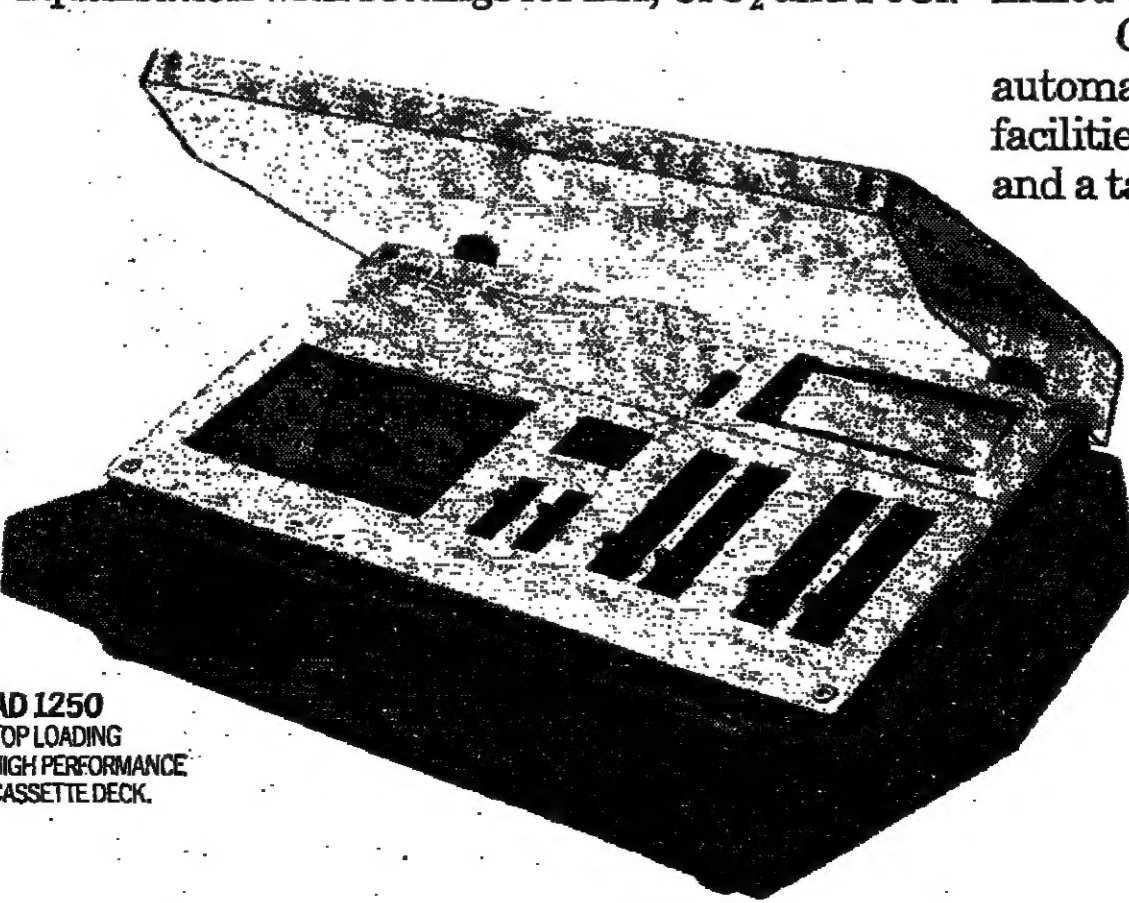
\*Dolby is the registered trademark of Dolby Labs Inc.

SPECIFICATIONS		
	AD 1250	AD 6300
Type:	Stereo cassette deck with Dolby N.R. system	Stereo cassette deck with Dolby N.R. system
Power Source:	120V/240V (selectable with voltage selector) 50/60 Hz	240V 50/60 Hz
Dimensions (mm):	388(W) x 130(H) x 275(D)	420(W) x 160(H) x 300(D)
Weight:	4.65 kg	6.7 kg
Track system:	4-track, 2-channel	4-track, 2-channel
Tape speed:	4.8 cm/sec (1 1/2 ips)	4.8 cm/sec (1 1/2 ips)
Wow and flutter:	0.09% (WRMS)	0.09% (WRMS)
S/N ratio:	58 dB (FeCr tape, Dolby on, DIN)	58 dB (FeCr tape, Dolby on, DIN)
Frequency response:	30-12,500 Hz (LH tape) 30-16,000 Hz (CrO <sub>2</sub> tape) 30-16,000 Hz (FeCr tape)	30-12,500 Hz (LH tape) 30-16,000 Hz (CrO <sub>2</sub> tape) 30-16,000 Hz (FeCr tape)
Head:	Ultra hard permalloy head	Ultra hard permalloy head
Fast forward and rewind time:	85 sec (C-60 tape)	85 sec (C-60 tape)
Motor:	DC servo motor	DC servo motor
Input sensitivity/impedance:	50 mV/50K ohms 0.1 mV/K ohms/3K ohms 0.3 mV/200-10K ohms	50 mV/50K ohms 0.1 mV/K ohms/5K ohms 0.25 mV/200-10K ohms
Output level/impedance:	0.775V/50K ohms (OVU) 0.775V/50K ohms (OVU) 1 mW/8 ohms	0.775V/10K ohms (OVU) 0.775V/10K ohms (OVU) 1 mW/8 ohms
HEADPHONE:		

These specifications and designs are subject to change without notice.



AD 6300  
FRONT LOADING  
HIGH PERFORMANCE  
CASSETTE DECK



AD 1250  
TOP LOADING  
HIGH PERFORMANCE  
CASSETTE DECK







## PARLIAMENT, November 8, 1977

# Nearly everyone a key worker: PM says country backing guidelines on moderate pay rises

House of Commons  
The Government's task was to mobilise the 'general will' against the particular interests in the present industrial and wage situation, Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said when he was questioned about the present situation.

Mr. Tony Arnold (Bristol, Gloucestershire) asked the Prime Minister: "When we see the TUC and Mr. Callaghan reminding them how important it is that the benefits of North Sea oil should strengthen the industrial base, and not be used for public expenditure or public services?"

Mr. Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—The next meeting of the National Economic Development Council, the body which will be considering the matter, is the point of view will be expressed. It is certainly Government policy, though there will be no more discussion about the matter. There should be a strong bias in favour of industrial strategy and regeneration.

I should not rule out entirely some bonus to public expenditure or private consumption if it seems appropriate, but the priority, I agree, goes to the regeneration of British industry.

Mr. Robert Macdonald (Brentford, Essex, C)—As he compares the industrial situation with that of 1973-74, will Mr. Callaghan find any reassurance from the fact that he is at least not confronted by an Opposition prepared to support every last inflationary wage claim?

Mr. Callaghan—There has been a general will mobilised in favour of Government policy and I am not surprised that the Opposition follow this expression of public opinion.

Mr. Jack Ashley (Stroud-on-Trent, South, Lab)—The settlement with the power workers reflects great credit on the Government's attitude. Conservative attempts to exploit the present state of industrial unrest reflect great discredit on them.

Mr. Callaghan—we are fighting battle which is crucial and I do not want to see the Government's attitude to the power workers being used as a stick to beat the Government with. It is vital and the country is so far reaching together on this issue.

Mr. Callaghan—We are fighting battle which is crucial and I do not want to see the Government's attitude to the power workers being used as a stick to beat the Government with. It is vital and the country is so far reaching together on this issue.

Mr. Callaghan—I am aware that many who suffer, as well as the

general public, are in favour of broad acceptance of the guidelines for moderate increases in pay and earnings this year. The Government will adhere to its policy as long as they can maintain public support. Without it they cannot succeed. With it, I hope, we shall.

I hope that the power workers and the union and generating board will get together to iron out the differences on a bipartite basis, provided that they are within the general guidelines.

Mr. David Crouch (Canterbury, C)—When the Prime Minister meets the TUC and its leaders, will he ask them for full acceptance of his guidelines for 10 per cent wage demands and not for allowing unions to put in grossly inflated demands as is happening now as for example the Transport and General Workers' Union demand for 42 per cent which has been put into the oil industry?

Mr. Callaghan—The TUC as an annual conference is not a thing voluntarily which is being of great value—the 12-month rule. We have the second, third and fourth years of the guidelines as it is enabling an orderly return to collective bargaining.

The TUC does not have control in these matters. It advises unions and they take their own decisions. As we have the second, third and fourth years of the guidelines as it is enabling an orderly return to collective bargaining.

## Services have to conform to pay policy

Though it would not solve the problem of pay under the present Government guidelines, there would be no objection in principle to a new service pay policy, Mr. Frederick Mailey, Secretary of the Defence Forces Pay Review Body, said when he was questioned at a session time.

He said that the Government's pay policy had lagged behind, but that was true of many civilians.

It was not true that any member of the armed forces in receipt of social security benefits, though some officers and men were in receipt of rent and rate rebates, he said.

Mr. John Cronin (Loughborough, Lab) had asked what preliminary arrangements the Secretary of State had made to increase the pay of the armed forces when the time was appropriate to do so.

Mr. Mailey—The Armed Forces Pay Review Body is responsible for recommending increases in service pay. It has already begun the work of collecting the necessary information on which to base a recommendation to take effect from April 1 next.

While the armed forces must, like everyone else, conform to the Government's pay policy for the time being, will he ensure that they do have the next pay increase it will be the substantial one that they justly deserve?

Mr. Mailey—Those considerations are wholly valid and because they are important factors in the situation, have to conform to Government pay policy. It is not for the Government to make recommendations to the Armed Forces Pay Review Body makes recommendations.

Mr. Philip Goodhart (Bromley, Beckenham, C)—Many servicemen are paid less than the fishermen they are probably in the civilian world. Is he aware of the widespread feeling that servicemen have fallen badly behind in the last two years and will the Armed Forces Pay Review Body be bound by the Government's 10 per cent guidelines in April?

Mr. Mailey—It will be for the Armed Forces Pay Review Body to make recommendations. For our part in the Ministry of Defence we are supplying them with all the information we can so they can form a judgment. I know there is difficulty on the question of comparability which is felt strongly in the Services.

Mr. Anthony Reyle (Richmond-on-Thames, Richmond, C)—There is a danger of serious demoralisation in the Services if people in the armed forces are not paid as much as those in the civilian world. Have you discovered some officers are drawing social security and rent allowances?

Mr. Mailey—I appreciate and understand that there is a strong feeling in the armed forces that their pay has lagged behind, but as we know from our constituents' enquiries, many of them feel that their pay has left them with serious financial problems.

It is untrue that a number of the armed forces are drawing social security benefits because of that is that one is unemployed. There are a number drawing rent and rate rebates.

The numbers are about 10 officers and 6,000 men.

Mr. Edward Lovden (Liverpool, Garston, Lab)—In view of the statements on the radio about the question of members of the armed forces not being eligible to join trade unions and the disability this has on them, will he agree to open union membership negotiations with the armed forces on pay?

Mr. Mailey—I am not sure that would solve the particular problem we have on dealing with the armed forces within the pay policy of the Government. On the other hand, I have no objection in principle to the armed forces if they were so minded to seek such representation. (Conservative cries of "Oh.")

Mr. Ian Gilmore, chief Opposition spokesman on defence (Chesham, Aylesbury, C)—The ridiculous complacent answers of Mr. Mailey will not make the review body in the morale of the armed forces. Is he definitely ruling out in interim settlement before next year?

Does he realise that unless he has the shackles off the Armed Forces Pay Review Body a 10 per cent increase will leave the forces 10 per cent behind comparable people in civilian life?

Mr. Mailey—He has enough expertise on pay to be able to advise on what the review body will recommend in April. In short we are doing is pursuing the 'no pay' policy which was agreed in 1973-74 when he required the armed forces to be subjected to the then statutory increases policy.

## State aid for inner cities extended: programme will rise to £125m by 1979

The Government are to make more money available for construction works in more inner city areas, Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in a statement.

In a previous statement of April 1977, Mr. Shore announced the Government's decision to increase the urban programme, to assist the inner city areas in the development of the inner city areas.

Mr. Shore—The Government's decision to increase the urban programme, to assist the inner city areas in the development of the inner city areas, will be a major step forward in the development of the inner city areas.

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During the past three years the productivity increases from which the standard of living, jobs and services have been derived have been four to five times higher in the most comparable industrial countries than under socialism in Britain.

In part the responsibility must fall on management, but the way in which the Government has intervened, through the high tide of the economy, has been a vital part in the recovery of the economy.

Mr. Callaghan—The Government has already implemented would foster the right environment in the economy, but it is not enough to have a high tide of the economy, it is vital part in the recovery of the economy.

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## Suicidal manning and tax policies

Sir Keith Joseph, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Leeds, North-East, C), returning the debate on the motion for an address in reply to the Queen's Speech, moved an Opposition amendment requesting that the policies being followed by the Government, as well as those outlined in the Speech, would not enable industry and commerce to achieve the level of performance necessary to maintain, let alone improve, the standard of life and social services.

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## NEB to have regional boards in North East and North West to tailor investment to local need

Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry (Chesham, Aylesbury, Lab) said he would have thought that Sir Keith Joseph, with his new-found philosophy, would at last have been able to say exactly what an incoming Conservative Government—which God forbid—would do.

From what he had said, it seemed that Sir Keith did not believe in the industrial strategy. He did not know whether they want for some of his colleagues, but he suspected probably not.

Mr. Varley—There is instant agreement on the NEB. In the guidelines for the NEB, the Government gave it a substantial job to do in the North and North-West. Offices had been set up in those regions and a useful start had been made.

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## SPORT

## Racing

## Approaching is worth his weight

Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent

People or firms prepared to sponsor horses racing this season certainly come in all shapes and sizes, and different guises. The latest to join the ranks of the racing industries of Britain, who have put up the prize money for the Mullock Handicap Steeplechase, is Newbury today.

Included in the prize money is a silver cigarette box—which may be won by Major Derek Wigan, who owns the imposing, six-year-old, Approaching, who has won twice today's course and distance already, once last season, and again this autumn. Running for the first time this season, Approaching was the only horse to win the Mullock Handicap Steeplechase at Newbury on October 21, and looked a budding young steeplechaser in the process. He sauntered home easily untroubled, 12 lengths ahead of Davonwreath having just given an exhilarating display of jumping.

Since then, Davonwreath has had his own vivid triumph by winning his next race at Newbury. Free Motion and Paddy's Delight have also each won their last race at Newbury. I still much prefer Approaching, even though he has a very high weight to carry, but he is a good cop with that, and at Newbury he gave me the impression that he could go on to even greater things than he has. He had to be taught to relax and learn the art of jumping fences at racing pace.

Approaching does manage to still my hopes he could easily be middle leg of a treble for his owner, Josh Gifford, and jockey

well enough to convince me that he will get the better of Rough and Tumble today. And Tumble does manage to win his rider, John Francome, will obviously be hoping to land a double by winning the Winterbourne Handicap Steeplechase, as well as Persim Camp. But Persim Camp has its lengths to make up on its last day of Man going on how they ran at Ascot recently. Even an allowance of an additional 7 lb from the side of Man may not enable him to peg back the Queen Mother's free running steeplechaser, who was once one of his stable companions at Falmouth when they were both trained there by the late Peter Canale.

Redlin and Perambulate must also come into the reckoning. Judged on the way they ran at Cheltenham and Sandown, Redlin ran on too strongly for Tree Tangle at Cheltenham, and before that at Tree Tangle, he finished third to Tangle Creek and Perambulate at Sandown. Perambulate would seem to have the beating of Redlin going on those two performances, but he may still not be good enough to cope with the more experienced and Spring Steeplechase over today's course and distance in February.

Clearly, Vernon Miller would obviously like to win the Elton Memorial Handicap Steeplechase at Worcester with his old favourite Bighorn, because the race is named after the man who was one of his stonchance owners as well as being a much loved character in the steeplechase world when it was known by a different name. Bighorn was the best will in the world it is difficult to envisage him beating Autumn Rain on this occasion.

Tommy and Michael Dickinson have won two races in a row at Worcester with Autumn Rain already this season and this looks like the ideal opportunity for them to land a third.

The first announced yesterday that in the first six months of the current financial year, their racing syndicate had made a profit of £17,700. This compares with £179,000 for the same period last year.

Usually during the winter months losses are made by the two because of meetings lost as a result of bad weather, and because of lower attendances at racecourses. However, provided that there is no abnormal loss in racing days, the two expect to achieve a profit of more than £1m in the full year ending March 31, 1978.

This would be the highest trading profit achieved by the two since the Betting and Gaming Act became effective in 1967, and a glowing indication of the ability and leadership of the current chairman, Woodrow Wyatt.

Peter Wynn's Hushline, who had refused to enter a sale at a meeting in London, and who was presiding first appearance in Ireland when winning from a tape start at Tipperary yesterday.

With Pat Eadery riding, the 6-4 on favourite finished 15 lengths in front of the runner-up, the Royal Flora (5-1) in the second division of the Brandon Maiden Fillies Stakes for two-year-olds over 10 furlongs. The value to the winner was only £485.

STATE OF GOING (continued): Newbury: 1.00-1.00; 2.00-2.00; 3.00-3.00; 4.00-4.00; 5.00-5.00; 6.00-6.00; 7.00-7.00; 8.00-8.00; 9.00-9.00; 10.00-10.00; 11.00-11.00; 12.00-12.00; 13.00-13.00; 14.00-14.00; 15.00-15.00; 16.00-16.00; 17.00-17.00; 18.00-18.00; 19.00-19.00; 20.00-20.00; 21.00-21.00; 22.00-22.00; 23.00-23.00; 24.00-24.00; 25.00-25.00; 26.00-26.00; 27.00-27.00; 28.00-28.00; 29.00-29.00; 30.00-30.00; 31.00-31.00; 32.00-32.00; 33.00-33.00; 34.00-34.00; 35.00-35.00; 36.00-36.00; 37.00-37.00; 38.00-38.00; 39.00-39.00; 40.00-40.00; 41.00-41.00; 42.00-42.00; 43.00-43.00; 44.00-44.00; 45.00-45.00; 46.00-46.00; 47.00-47.00; 48.00-48.00; 49.00-49.00; 50.00-50.00; 51.00-51.00; 52.00-52.00; 53.00-53.00; 54.00-54.00; 55.00-55.00; 56.00-56.00; 57.00-57.00; 58.00-58.00; 59.00-59.00; 60.00-60.00; 61.00-61.00; 62.00-62.00; 63.00-63.00; 64.00-64.00; 65.00-65.00; 66.00-66.00; 67.00-67.00; 68.00-68.00; 69.00-69.00; 70.00-70.00; 71.00-71.00; 72.00-72.00; 73.00-73.00; 74.00-74.00; 75.00-75.00; 76.00-76.00; 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J. T. Delane, the prince of editors

## 40 years of political dynamite at Printing House Square

Editors of *The Times* tend to be durable as well as distinguished men. There have been only 10 of them since Barnes took over in 1817 as the first editor in the modern sense. Their portraits keep watch along the editorial corridor of New Printing House Square: dignified, solemn, often hairy faces, conscious of their power and heavy responsibilities. The founding father of the idea of *The Times* as an independent estate of the realm and a conscience of the world was the editor of the last time a 100 years ago today.

John Thaddeus Delane, who became editor at the age of 23 and reigned for nearly 40 years, was one of the patriarchs of modern journalism. His definitions of the freedom of the press and its role in the political process are as relevant today, when they are under attack from diverse and surprising quarters, as when he formulated them.

Delane was not a brilliant writer himself, except of letters and what we call memos today. But he was the personification of news sense, the best judge on the shortest deliberation of any matter in hand, decisive, almost always right, the prince of editors.

Our archive at *The Times* contains numerous files of Delane's papers, and 27 large

volumes of his correspondence with every leading statesman of his generation. The matter is usually high politics, often political dynamite. To open a file at random, in 1857 Delane was writing to Palmerston in the period just before the Indian Mutiny, giving him the private information of *The Times* about India, which was evidently a great deal more accurate than that of the Government.

A century ago John Walter III, chief proprietor and manager of *The Times*, became concerned about the failing health of his editor and old friend. He wrote to Delane asking him how long he could go on burning the candle at both ends, and hinting that he might want to retire. The archive contains a draft of Delane's sad reply, describing this letter as a sentence of death.

By the autumn of 1877 Delane was clearly a sick man. Walter called on him to perform what he described as "one of the most painful duties which has ever yet devolved upon me": to insist that Delane retire on a hand-pension at the end of the year, and go on sick leave as soon as practicable. Delane made his last entry in the editorial diary on November 9, recording an editorial on the subject of Mr Gladstone in Ire-

land. His neat writing has become very shaky. On the next day the hand of Thomas Chentery, his successor, took over.

The news of his retirement came as a thunderbolt to the Victorians. The Queen sent to inquire after his health, and recommended, characteristically, a change from the fogs of London to his native Berkshire air. Lord Beaconsfield wrote, incredulously: "But who will undertake the social part of the business? Who will go about in the world and do all that which Mr Delane did so well?"

That Delane should have left Printing House Square was as inconceivable to his contemporaries as that St Paul's should have been removed from London. But the principle of the independence of the press that he established and fought for lived on, and still lives, though always vulnerable. He expressed it most eloquently in 1852, when *The Times* was leading a violent attack in the name of liberty on the autocracy of Louis Napoleon. The Prime Minister in the House of Commons, the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, and leading politicians of all sides severely reprimanded *The Times* for smearing the French Government in the person of Napoleon. They said that if the

arrogant press wanted to exercise the influence of statesmen, it should also exercise their responsibility, moderation and respect for important foreigners.

Delane counter-attacked by having two thunderous leaders written, asserting unswervingly and unforgetfully that the press has quite different responsibilities to those of politicians: "We do not interfere with the duties of statesmen; our vocation is, in one respect, inferior to theirs, for we are unable to wield the power or represent the collective dignity of the country; but in another point of view it is superior, for, unlike them, we are able to speak the whole truth without fear or favour."

Delane did not live long after having been separated from his life's work and ruling passion at Printing House Square. Every year on the anniversary of his death *The Times* still carries an *In Memoriam* notice to John T. Delane, Esq. His definition of the duty of the press to speak the whole truth in the public interest without fear or favour needs to be continually remembered, and repeated to statesmen and politicians of all sides, who are still seeking to muzzle it.

Philip Howard



## British fishing: an industry heading for an EEC storm

The hopes held out in London and Brussels a month or so ago of a breakthrough in the year-old negotiations among the Nine on a new common fisheries policy have dwindled to vanishing point. Indeed, as far as the British are concerned, the latest proposals by the European Commission are in some ways even more unsatisfactory than those they rejected last autumn.

Last month's meeting of EEC agriculture and fisheries ministers, in Luxembourg, which was at one time optimistically billed as the "definitive" bargaining session, merely reaffirmed how far apart the parties to the dispute still are. No one now expects a decision this year, and in the meantime pressure is growing in Britain for unilateral action.

The present fisheries policy, which was adopted by the EEC of six members in 1970, is based on the principle that the Community's fishing grounds, no matter where they are located, should be equally accessible to the trawling fleets of all member states. No policy on the face of it could be more unimpeachably "communitarian".

But that is not how it appears to the British and Irish. As they see it, the 1970 decision hurried through in anticipation of enlargement—was designed mainly to impose on a Community of nine a policy which gave the original six, who had largely exhausted their own waters, a potential right of unlimited access to the fish stocks of Ireland and Britain.

During their entry negotiations, the newcomers were able to get some slight modification of this free-for-all policy. Limited national fishing zones were introduced, ranging from three to 12 miles off the coast. But these were never intended to be permanent, and they are due, as things stand, to be phased out by the end of 1982.

Moreover, since 1973, the general expansion throughout the world of 200-mile fishing limits, beginning with those off Iceland, has dramatically transformed the situation in which the EEC finds itself, and has made the reform of the common fisheries policy, in the British and Irish view, not merely desirable but absolutely imperative.

No policy can be equitable, the British argue, which does not take account of two crucial factors: first, that about 60 per cent of all the fish caught within 200 miles of the coasts of EEC member states are caught in British waters; second, that Britain has been harder hit than any of its partners by loss of fishing in waters that now lie within the 200-mile limits of non-EEC states.

It is estimated that over the past five years the British catch in distant waters has declined from 450,000 tonnes to some 150,000 tonnes, owing to exclusion from Icelandic grounds, the Barents Sea, the Norwegian sector of the north-east Arctic and elsewhere. The result is that the 200-mile limit of other member states offers no compensation because the British hardly catch any fish there.

By contrast, other member states, some of which, such as West Germany, have suffered proportionately even greater loss of fishing opportunities in non-EEC waters, stand to be compensated substantially by increased access to fish stocks within 200 miles of British and Irish coasts, where they have always taken a large proportion of their catch.

The Irish, who have never had a distant water capacity, face a different problem. The concern is that their small, but fast expanding, inshore fleet should be guaranteed a sufficient

The extension of 200-mile fishing limits has made the reform of the common fisheries policy absolutely imperative

clearly large catch to sustain its growth. This demand has been accepted as legitimate by other member states and the European Commission, though they are not agreed about how best to satisfy it.

Britain began by arguing that its requirements could best be met by a band of waters round its coast up to 50 miles in width, which would be largely, if not exclusively reserved for British fishermen. This was subsequently modified to a demand for a totally exclusive coastal belt of 12 miles, with a "dominant preference" for British fishermen between 12 and 50 miles, which comes to much the same thing.

Neither concept has found favour with the Commission or other member states, apart from the Irish. The Commission believes that national needs can be met by an allocation of catch quotas weighted in favour of fishing-dependent regions in North Britain and elsewhere. But it is difficult to see how the Commission's latest proposals, which offer British fishermen only about 21 per cent of the total EEC catch in 1978, could possibly be accepted as fair by any British government.

There is still no agreement even on the basic approach to the problem. To begin with, the Commission does not accept that the contribution made by a member state to the EEC's total fish stocks can be measured in terms of the volume of fish caught in its national zone, and still less that this can be used as a valid criterion for allocating catch quotas.

The migratory cycle of most species extends over several national zones, and therefore in the words of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the commissioner responsible for fisheries, "no individual member states can maintain that a fish stock depends solely on waters within its sovereignty".

Aside from this difference of view, Mr Gundelach appears to have gone back on earlier promises to offer British fishermen reasonable compensation for the opportunities they have lost in non-EEC waters. These losses cannot be calculated, the commission now contends, until the outcome of negotiations on reciprocal fishing rights with countries like the Soviet Union is known.

In fact, however, the catch share out proposed by the Commission for 1978 does make assumptions about the likely fishing possibilities in third-country waters and vice versa. The truth is that Brussels has realized that to offer the British anything like the compensation they are looking for would imply sacrifices by other member states that would be politically unacceptable.

Michael Hornsby

## Count the names and think: every one has died in the hands of South Africa's police

Bernard Levin

So far as I know, there has been no publication in this country of the complete list of those who have died in South Africa while in the hands of the police under security laws (ie, excluding those arrested for real crimes), in circumstances sufficiently suspicious to warrant investigation. (To warrant investigation—but not to resolve it, in almost every case there has been a blanket refusal to institute any kind of inquiry.)

One or two of these cases have become international causes célèbres; some of them have been lifted out of the realm of suspicious circumstances into that of undoubted murder, such as the Muslim leader, the Imam Haron, killed to death by police in September 1969, or Ahmed Timol, thrown from a tenth-floor window in 1971; and I discussed yesterday the case of Mampela Mphahleli. But most of the victims remain unknown in the wider world, and many of them in South Africa itself, and for the record, therefore, I propose to list them all now. The details were compiled by the South African Institute of Race Relations, a body so scrupulous, authoritative and impartial that not even Kruger, the Minister of Justice, has dared to close it down, although the 18 organisations it has banned in the last few weeks. The list is complete up to September of this year; it is too much to hope that there will not be further additions to it over the years.

1 Looksmart Ngudie, died 5.9.63. Inquest verdict: "Suicide, hanging."

(Incredible though it may seem, Ngudie was "banned" after his death, by the then Minister of Justice, now Prime Minister, P. W. Vorster. The reason for this measure was that, since nothing may be published in South Africa about "banned" persons, evidence given at the then unavoidable inquest could be suppressed.)

2 Bellington Mampela, September '63, died 140 days after his detention. No further details given.

3 James Tyika, 24.1.64. Found hanging in cell by scarf. No details of inquest.

4 Suliman Saloojee, 9.9.64. Fell seven floors from the Gray, then Security Police headquarters in Johannesburg. Death from multiple injuries, "no irregularities."

5 Ngezi Gede, 9.5.65. Said to have died from natural causes. No details of inquest.

6 Pongolasha Hoyo, 9.5.65. "Death from natural causes." No further details.

7 James Hamakwayo, in 1966. "Suicide by hanging." No details given.

8 Hangula Shonyeka, 9.10.66. "Suicide." Shonyeka's name given by Minister of Police in 1970.

9 L. Y. Leong Pin, died 19.11.66, in Leeuwkop prison. "Suicide by hanging." No further details available.

10 Ah Yan, 5.1.67. Died Silvertown police cells. "Suicide by hanging." No details of inquest given.

11 Alphaeus Madiba, 9.9.67. "Suicide by hanging." No further details.

12 J. B. Tubakwa, 11.9.68. "Hanging (suicide)." No details.

13 Nicodemus Kgotho, 5.2.69. Post-mortem showed broncho-pneumonia, possibly as a result of head injury; bruises and abrasions from having "slipped." Inquest magistrate unable to determine how balance of injuries sustained; but detainees died of heart trouble partly brought on by the injuries.

14 Solomon Modipane, 28.2.69. "Skipped on soap" sustaining injuries. District surgeon unable to determine cause of death. Documents placed before magistrate, who endorsed them "natural death—no inquest necessary."

15 James Lenko, 10.3.69. Traces of copper, signs of electric shock in toe; bruises below ear, marks on neck, shoulders; haemorrhage at base of skull. Magistrate found "suicide by hanging" and death not due to offence on part of anyone. Died Pretoria local prison.

16 Claeb Mayekiso, 1.6.69. "Natural cause." No further details available.

17 Michael Shilute, night of 16-17 June, 1969. Death "suicide." No details given.

18 Jacob Monagatso, 10.9.69, in Pretoria. Dis-

trict surgeon found he died from "thrombosis."

19 Imam Abdullah Haron, 27.9.69. Died Maitland, Cape, police cells. "Fall down stairs"; 26 bruises of different ages; broken ribs, haematomas on back. Inquest magistrate unable to determine how balance of injuries sustained; but detainees died of heart trouble partly brought on by the injuries.

20 Mthayeni Cuthese, 21.1.71. First detained 21.12.70. Apparently allowed home then re-detained. From Funderburg, he was brought to Umazisa hospital where his son fetched his body. Face swollen, bruised, wounds on body, cut on head. Death due to natural causes was verdict of inquest: on 3.8.71.

21 Ahmed Timol, 27.10.71. Fell from 10th floor window, John Vorster Square, during interrogation. No details of inquest.

22 Joseph Mditshi, 19.3.76. No further details given. Mrs Mditshi is suing Minister and Commissioner of Police for R25,000. No inquest.

23 Luke Maswamba, 2.9.76. Inquest 11.11.76. No details given.

24 Dumisani Mbatha (Isak), 25.9.76. Aged 16. Arrested with students in demonstration in Johannesburg centre.

25 Mampela Mphahleli, 5.8.76. No details given. (I gave them yesterday.)

26 Unknown black man, 6.10.76. Reported that police investigating death

in Carleton police cells; believed man had head injuries; spokesmen indicated allegations of assault involved in investigation.

27 Edward Mzole, 40, 9.10.76. Detained at The Fort 1.10.76.

28 William Nondini Tshwane, 14.10.76. Arrested with other students at Modder B. No further details.

29 Ernest Mmamela, 18.11.76. No further details.

30 Thabo Mzole, 26.11.76. No details on death.

31 Wellington Mungial Tshabane, 11.12.76. Stated held in connection with explosion.

32 George Botha, 14.12.76. No details available.

33 Dr Neneath Nshurutsa, 9.1.77. No details given.

34 Lawrence Ndebele, 9.1.77. His wife also in detention. About to appear on charge when he died. No details given on cause of death.

35 Simon Mole, 20.1.77. Detained after explosion in house in Soweto. Wife also detained. No details on death.

36 Mathew Marwale Mabene, 15.2.77. Parents informed early in February that he was in detention. Aged 22.

37 Tswifene Joyi, 15.2.77. No details given.

38 Samuel Malinga, 22.2.77, in Maritzburg. Death due to "natural causes."

39 R. Khosa, 26.3.77, in Pietermaritzburg. Aged 45. "Suicide by hanging."

40 Phakamile Mabisa, 7.7.77, in Kimberley. Aged 27. Fell from sixth floor of Kimberley police station.

41 Elsie Lora, 1.8.77, in Cape Town. Inquest still to be held.

42 Hoosen Haffjee, a dentist, in Durban on August 3. Inquest still to be held.

43 Bayampin Enzali, August this year. Inquest still to be held.

44 September 12, Steve Biko.

This may seem an empty exercise: list of names none of which will mean anything to most of my readers, indeed many of which mean nothing to me. And yet I think it is worth doing, for though the names on this list may mean nothing, it is important to remember—doubtless so, because South Africa lives by the principle that it is not important, and looks likely to die in the same belief—that each of those names was once a living human being, with families and friends, with interests and feelings, with hopes and the capacity to work for their realization. Every one of them was in custody on "security" grounds; almost none had been charged with any offence, and most could not have been. They had fallen foul of the South African authorities because of their opposition to apartheid; and then they were killed, or fell foul of the police; and then they died.

"-man's" death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind". Forty-four deaths in police custody diminish me to the point, they think, that South Africa infinite. South Africa's actions seem designed, more and more, to ensure that there will never be a peaceful and hate-free solution for her problems; from the burning and detention of those who work to save all her people, to the killings in her prisons, and the condemnation and protection of the killers, the story has been the same. That list above could be supplemented, and I dare say has already been, quietly and privately, by a list of those responsible for the deaths on it. A terrible justice awaits them.

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## The candid lady who has become Candida

If it has escaped the notice of serious theatre-goers that Deborah Kerr is playing the title role in Shaw's *Candida* at the Albery in London, it is most certainly not because she has escaped the notice of serious filmgoers. Like it or not, Miss Kerr is regarded as a film actress first, a stage performer second. This is how it has always been. But not as it always will be. The boards have beckoned to her and she has heeded their call. She has not made a film for six years, and though the cinema is poorer for her absence, the theatre has gained an excellent *Candida*, and by all accounts, a Mary Tyrone (O'Neill) that Los Angeles will remember.

"Ironically," she told me yesterday, "when I am trying to shuffle off the film star image, it is my old film fans who are helping to keep *Candida* running at the Albery for five months."

Miss Kerr is a warm and level-headed lady who, to her eternal credit, has never slotted into the tinsel world of Hollywood and she is just as sensible and frank about the films she has made. I only wish Eric Braun who has written her biography (W. H. Allen, £5.50) had been so discerning. Even Miss Kerr herself is somewhat embarrassed by the egotistic side that flows out of its pages. Comparisons need not always be odious.



## Why the MP was left speechless

Tan Dalrymple, the arch anti-MP, who has made devolution a particular concern, had prepared a speech of considerable force for his local constituency party explaining why he felt so opposed to a Scottish Assembly as envisaged by the Government.

## Timely question

As I possess an ancient chronometer which tells only the time and not having been there for at least three weeks, I searched desperately for something new to say about the City of Dreaming Spires. Happily, I encountered David Piper's recently published tome, *The Treasures of Oxford* (Penguin, Press, £6.95).

Having been under the impression that Kenneth Tynan and C. S. Lewis were Oxford's greatest treasures, I was delighted to learn from Mr Piper, who is (for the uninitiated) the director of the Ashmolean Museum, that there has, hitherto, never been a serious study of the many collections owned by the multiplicity of institutions within the University City.

Mr Piper, you may remember, suggested putting clocks forward 11 hours instead of back an hour when BST ended. Clearly he, too, does not have a calendar watch. But, to judge from my post bag, many others have.

Michael Poyner, of Putney, S.W.15, speaks for the majority when he tells me that to advance the time on his calendar watch by 11 hours and not upset his equilibrium, he would have to turn the hands through 743 hours (ie a 31-day month minus one hour.)

## Spotlight on Oxford's treasures

With the prospect of speaking at the Oxford Union tomorrow and not having been there for at least three weeks, I searched desperately for something new to say about the City of Dreaming Spires. Happily, I encountered David Piper's recently published tome, *The Treasures of Oxford* (Penguin, Press, £6.95).

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## Now for another pink pigeon

In the precarious business of trying to preserve endangered wild life, disappointments are frequent. Gerald Durrell and his colleagues at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust were naturally upset when the only surviving offspring of a pair of pink pigeons, one of the rarest bird species in the world, died.

Scientific tests are now being made to see if, through the disease blamed for the chick's death, could have something to do with what is happening in Mauritius where the bird population has dropped to a mere 30 or fewer.

The story of their capture is told in Mr Durrell's latest book *Colours and Pink Pigeons* (Collins, £3.50). Next year's visitors to the Jersey zoo may hope to see both species.

The obfuscators are burrowing their way into Conservative Central Office. The press guide for the Bournemouth by-election on November 24 says there is a high percentage of elderly people in the town: that much is comprehensible. But then it goes on: "Over 25 per cent of the population is over 65 and 48 per cent are economically active. No clarification is offered. Could it mean the senior citizens who draw their pensions from the Post Office and rush round to the nearest bingo hall? Not in Bournemouth, surely."

## Getting it straight

One thing you cannot accuse this column of is bias, and to prove this beyond all shadow of a doubt, I will talk about a famous old brandy, Cognac, and Armagnac in one, and the same item.

First, Armagnac. From the heart of Gascony comes a reputation about a reference to a diary (Quoting, of course, otherwise reliable source, it should add) about Armagnac: being produced from agricultural alcohol and fruit-based wines. Absolute rot, of course. Like Cognac, it is made from wine and from nothing else.

That having been put straight, the good folk of Gers, Landes, and Garonne need no longer think about giving up their subscription to *The Times*.

As for Cognac, I am told there is a restaurant in London called "Le Cognac" in Watlington Street—where you will pay almost as much for the digestif (£8) as you will pay for the whole meal (£9).

A very special Cognac, of course. Hennessy produced only 60 bottles of it, to mark the Queen's silver jubilee. It is 100 years old and came from a single vintage from the domaine of La Sauvalle in the Grande Champagne region.





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## ALLOCATION OR CHOICE?

It now appears unlikely that Mrs Williams will be allowed parliamentary time this session for her promised Bill on parents' rights. She would like to move quickly to reconstitute school governing bodies in order to give statutory representation to parents, teachers and local community interests as well as to the local authorities. And she has recognized the need to clear up the muddled legal basis for the fairly exiguous rights which parents now have in regard to choice of schools in the maintained school system.

Parents' choice of school is an emotive notion. The Conservatives have gone some way to make it their own with their proposed parents' charter. Reports of divisions inside the Cabinet and in the science and education sub-committee of the Labour Party have highlighted the politics of this issue. To the left wing, any attempt to increase parental influence threatens to reinforce the privileges of middle-class and reintroduce a form of selection—self-selection—just when it seemed the comprehensive battle had been won. But Mrs Williams is loath to allow the Tories a monopoly of concern for parents. Her instinct is to make closer parental involvement central to her ideal of a school system more accountable to national need and more responsive to local demand.

There are two other reasons why some action is needed at this time, one legal and the other administrative. One consequence

of last year's judgment in the House of Lords in the Tameside case has been to cast doubt on the Department of Education's present practice on parental choice of school. A parent can appeal to the Secretary of State if he refuses to accept a local authority's decision, or he can keep his child away from school and invite prosecution in order to name the school of his choice in the magistrate's School Attendance Order. In either case, if the DES is to intervene it has to be under Section 68 of the 1944 Education Act which empowers the Secretary of State to issue a direction to a local authority or body of voluntary school governors which is acting unreasonably—the same section of the Act which Mr Mulley invoked unsuccessfully against Tameside. The DES no longer believes that it can do so under Section 68 to resolve such disputes without being challenged, and quite reasonably wants a clear statement of the law on the rights of parents and the powers of the Ministers.

In reality, however, what is at issue is not the parent's right to choose but his limited right to have his preferences taken into account alongside those of other parents and other important practical considerations such as geography and the efficient use of resources. Paradoxically, an attempt to clarify parents' rights is likely to limit them: at present a sufficiently determined parent can usually get his way eventually. Any new scheme is likely in practice to strengthen the hands of the administration.

Local authority administrators will have a formidable task in the next few years in dealing with a rapidly declining school population. Economy and efficiency will require the closure of some schools and the concentration of teaching in a smaller number. The more an authority is obliged to respect parental preferences the harder it is going to be to carry out this necessary rationalization. As chief education officers see it, there could be a high price, both in money and efficiency, to pay for the retention of an excessive number of declining secondary schools. Mrs Williams is well aware of this and her decision to champion parental choice is sugar on the pill of her pledge to support local authorities in the matter of school closures. In practice, of course, parental preferences will be an important factor in deciding which schools should run down and which survive.

Effective parental choice depends either on the existence of a large surplus of school places or on the coincidence of the individual choices with the options available at the time. The latter is most improbable, but the former will be the normal situation in most cities over the next ten years. It is important to take advantage of this, by sensitive administration, less than by law, to provide a safety valve for parental dissatisfaction and to allow parents the opportunity to vote with their feet in times of crisis, as the Tyndale parents did two years ago.

## HOSTAGES OF THE POLISARIO

The French left, the Socialists and Communists, came together yesterday to put brutally on record the motives of the Polisario Front in seizing thirteen French nationals who were working in Mauritania's segment of the western Sahara, now subject to intensified and proficient raiding. The leftist leaders declared that France's recognition of the "Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic" was indispensable to secure the release of these unfortunate caught in the western Saharan crossfire.

Classified as "mercenaries" by their abductors, they are plainly held hostage to exact French recognition of the Polisario's state in exile. This would be regarded as an unfriendly act by Morocco and Mauritania which partitioned the Spanish Sahara instead of allowing the local nomads to decide their own future. French recognition would be deplored by other anti-Marxist African countries, including Senegal which provides France with the base to which French special troops were sent last week as a precautionary measure.

The French negotiator, M Chayet, who has been talking to the Polisario representatives in Algiers, has so far not secured their release, in spite of Presi-

dent Giscard's pressure on President Boumediene. The Polisario cheerfully avows new approaches, and can now consider the fresh possibilities of their position. They have material in the reports that French specialists are working with Moroccan troops in the Sahara, while King Hassan's announcement that his troops will pursue Polisario guerrillas into Algeria adds a fresh complication in dealings with the French.

If the hostages hear of these manoeuvres they will hardly be comforted. With Algerian co-operation, it will not be hard for the Polisario to keep them hidden in such a terrain. Geography seems to rule out the sort of action that saved the hostages at Mogadishu. It took the French over two years to secure the release of Mme Claude when held by the Chad rebels for a ransom of arms and supplies. In the end the good offices of Colonel Gaddafi contributed to her release, and he has come forward again. He is of course one of the supporters of the Polisario cause, which is ultimately backed by the Russians.

The dispute over the western Sahara is not of the West's making. The single case where a colony did not become a sovereign state. When Spain pulled out it was seized and partitioned on historical claims

without regard to the views of the Organization of African Unity or the United Nations. The long-standing rivalry between Morocco and Algeria was envenomed. The nomad dissenters would probably have succumbed, however unfairly, had not Algeria, for material and ideological reasons, taken up and armed their cause. The guerrillas are now keeping the Moroccans and Mauritians on the hop. They may detonate a fresh armed clash between Morocco and Algeria. But France cannot antagonize or abandon King Hassan. Furthermore, to pay diplomatic ransom for hostages would set as bad an example as yielding to other kinds of blackmail.

The conduct of wars by proxy, and the exploitation of expatriates, is increasing in Africa. It remains to be seen if France can by diplomatic means free her people. But only in exceptional cases can forceful intervention work. Even when it does it tends to antagonize all African states, and becomes a liability for future diplomacy. Threats the African rebuffs recoil at home, as President Giscard may discover. European governments do best to warn their nationals to come out early when they come to be at risk—and there were storm warnings in the Sahara.

## VICTIMS OF BUDGET FATIGUE

The test of a man's objectivity is his ability to sympathize with tax officials about their professional grievances. So here goes.

The Inland Revenue staff are asking (or else...) for a £100 cash bonus for performing the actual operation announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer a fortnight ago of removing a couple of straws from the camel's back. The more or less continuous adjustment of the income tax structure in pursuit of demand management and electoral fine-tuning and in place of the single annual budgetary review which had served from Gladstone until the 1970s keeps inspectors of taxes on the go until even those assiduous public servants are constrained to protest.

"The staff are saying 'Enough is enough'", says Mr Anthony Christopher, the general secretary of their union. Their burden, he adds, must be unique in Britain [as is the burden borne by miners, policemen, firemen, power station workers, customs officers, television technicians, grave diggers, anybody to do with Leylands, stately home owners, provincial repertory companies,

weight lifters]. As Mr Christopher said three years ago, when his members were still just short of the end of their tether, "There is a limit to which a government can muck about with the tasks the civil servants are required to do." And that limit is reached when its interference induces in its officials a condition known as "Budget fatigue".

It is a distressing complaint. The only treatment mentioned in the clinical literature is the application of £100 cash bonus with copious draughts of tea. What has not yet been the subject of official comment is that the Inland Revenue Staff Federation is not the only population at risk. The incidence of Budget fatigue is widely spread throughout the adult population, male and female. The symptoms have often been confused in the past with those of commoner disorders such as helplessness, resignation, selective emigration, floating votes, and widespread tax evasion, the last being a virulent infection causing considerable concern to the public authorities.

That the latest outbreak appears to be confined to tax

officials is explained by the fact that the twelfth in the series of Mr Healey's Budgets contained an antidote effective for the generality of those exposed to budgetary infection. It recorded a just perceptible moderation in the appetite with which government helps itself to its citizens' personal incomes.

This ingredient, instead of inducing fatigue, stimulates the patient and may even be a cause of overexcitement in political cases. But experience warns that Budgets are more commonly marked by the absence of this stimulative element. When normal conditions return after a general election and Budgets cause once more that familiar sinking feeling, taxpayers will not be so ungrateful as to forget the clinical trials undergone by the Inland Revenue staff, their contribution to the epidemiology of Budget fatigue, and above all the treatment which they have pioneered—cash bonuses.

Self-medication may be tried by means of a deduction from the sum paid in settlement of assessed tax liability, though not all specialists are thought to recommend it.

## The Feminists

From Mr Richard J. Evans

Sir, I am grateful to *The Times* for noticing my book *The Feminists* (October 31), but I would have been more grateful still had your staff reporter given a less garbled version of its contents. Despite the headline over the story, the book does not claim that "Britain led the field in women's rights": it shows that Britain lagged behind America, Australasia and Scandinavia. Nor does the book assert that "the suffragette movement was the largest in the world", if by "suffragette" your reporter means "female suffrage": the American movement was far larger. It is true that the militant Pankhursts had no rivals elsewhere, but the book is mainly about constitutional feminism: there are only a handful of paragraphs on the militants. I do not claim that von Hippel's book of 1794 was the first in the field: I merely take it as an example. The impression given that the book is mainly about Britain is incorrect: it is mainly about Europe. In fact, almost everything

in the article is wrong. I only hope that your readers will not take the report as an accurate account of my book, but buy themselves a copy and read it more carefully than your staff reporter seems to have done.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD J. EVANS,  
School of European Studies,  
University of East Anglia,  
University Plain,  
Norwich.  
November 4.

## Prosecution of Mr Helms

From Sir Douglas Dods-Parker

Sir, May I add my support to Lord George Brown's letter (November 4) deploring the situation in which Mr Helms found himself, and for which he has been punished "by law". This incident stresses once again the incompatibility of the separation of powers established by the *Bill of Rights* and the *Bill of Rights* Act, with an Official Secrets Act, or at least a workable set of conventions on unacknowledgedability.

In 1943-44 I had the privilege of commanding an Anglo-American Special Operational Unit. My American colleague and I were personally instructed by General Eisenhower to have no secrets from each other. Yet on occasion I was admonished by his American Chief of Staff for breaches of security, by individuals against whom no action was possible for lack of an American Official Secrets Act. I pointed out our dilemma: no full exchange of information with certain American colleagues, or no full security of operations.

As long as the executives of the US Government are refused adequate protection, by pressure from the Congress or the press (for reasons which I can understand but not accept), so long will the US Administration be handicapped by having to combat subversion and disruption whose citizens in South Africa are similarly badly treated.

Yours faithfully,  
SCOTIE LORACK, Director,  
Transkei Information Centre,  
Suite 305,  
Radnor House,  
93 Regent Street, W1.  
November 7.

## Economic aims of Eurocommunism

From Mr Hugh Thomas

Sir, Eric Hoffer is right to point out to your readers (article, November 7) the importance of Eurocommunism and to the presentation of it made by Santiago Carrillo. He wrote on a particularly appropriate day since the statements made by Alex Kison in Moscow show that, on the matter of relations with, or attitudes towards, Russia, the Eurocommunists are showing themselves more critical, and much more realistic, than the representative of the Labour Party at the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik coup d'état—a coup d'état opposed by the majority of the Russian people. Carrillo in his November 25, 1977, showed, a date whose anniversary may not be celebrated with such gusto in Russia.

Even so, Mr Hoffer needs to be reminded of two things: first, the only way of judging the humanity of the Russian people is by the actions of the Soviet Union; secondly, friends of democracy should continue to be suspicious of any party whose programme while enthusiastic about political freedom makes no commitment about economic freedom. Since Carrillo in his book envisages a society in which, ultimately, private enterprise will disappear and be replaced by "national planning". In the short term, it seems, Carrillo would like to see the Russian people subjected to national direction but he suggests that in the long run all private enterprise will probably vanish. It may be that Carrillo's Hoffer's view is that the links of planning capitalism by democratic means. But the preservation of a multiparty system, independent trade unions, and the other things which both Mr Hoffer and Carrillo say they like would be inconceivable without the survival of private enterprise.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH THOMAS,  
29 Leobrook Grove, W11.  
November 7.

## Devolution and Quebec

From Mr Wm Roberts, MP for Conway (Conservative)

Sir, It is not curious to say the least that while the Federal Government of Canada is striving to maintain the unity of that country against Quebec's attempt to secure sovereign status, the United Kingdom Government is determined to establish directly elected assemblies in Scotland and Wales which could in due course pursue a similar policy of independence to that currently followed by the Quebec Government under Premier Levesque.

The Province of Quebec has long aspired to a greater degree of self-government than that proposed for Scotland and Wales under the devolution Bills but clearly, that large measure of self government would not be enough to satisfy the Parti Quebecais. It is the present Government of Quebec which is making a demand for sovereignty following another referendum organised by the ruling party in Scotland and Wales respectively. When a referendum is held in Scotland and Wales, the Government is making for its own back!

Yours sincerely,  
WYN ROBERTS,  
House of Commons,  
November 5.

## Transkei nationals

From Mr Scottie Lorack

Sir, In your issue of November 5 you carry a leading article entitled "Transkei: a step towards the future". This article you state "as Chief Matanzima's acceptance of Pretoria's condition for independence, that all Xhosa were Transkei nationals". Whether they wished to be so or not, they have now been made for international recognition. This statement is quite untrue.

As the Foreign Minister of Transkei, Mr Digby Koyana, made clear in recent interviews to use his own words, "There are of course Xhosa who are settled permanently in South Africa, coming from Transkei. They are South African citizens and can become Transkeians only if they so wish. Nobody can place these people on the Transkei citizens register against Transkei's will. As far as we are concerned, those who do not wish to exercise Transkei citizenship are the responsibility of the South African Government. There is no question of our accepting South Africa's responsibilities for them."

Through no fault of their own the people of Transkei were incorporated in the Union of South Africa by the British Government. Therefore unlike Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland where were British Protectorates and were granted independence by the British Government, Transkei had to remain its independence with the Government of South Africa. The Government of Transkei is totally opposed to apartheid nor does it concede that blacks in South Africa belong to the 13 per cent of the land area of the Republic which are designated as "homelands".

The Government of Transkei regrets the treatment of those of its citizens who are working in South Africa as being totally unacceptable and it is taking up the matter with the Government of South Africa. It would welcome support in this matter from the Governments of Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland whose citizens in South Africa are similarly badly treated.

Yours faithfully,  
SCOTIE LORACK, Director,  
Transkei Information Centre,  
Suite 305,  
Radnor House,  
93 Regent Street, W1.  
November 7.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Operating a permanent incomes policy

From Sir Anthony Bowlby and Mr Jack Lee

Sir, We welcome the letters from Professor Jacques (October 27) and Lord Brown (November 2) calling for a positive long-term wages policy which will grapple with the problems of differentials. Industry is seething with discontent and anger caused by the compression or elimination of differentials traditionally and justly paid for skill and responsibility.

Since the summer of 1975, pay policy has treated differentials harshly. The policy was designed to maintain them in money but to reduce them in percentage terms and this is unacceptable in a period of rapid inflation. In practice they have been worse eroded; production workers have commonly enjoyed the benefit of wage drift in addition to their planned increases, a benefit not shared by skilled millwork and maintenance men or by supervisors.

We would suggest:

- (1) Responsibility for running a positive incomes policy should be shared between the Government, CBI and TUC.
- (2) There should be a permanent institution to monitor the application of the policy and to carry out inquiries.
- (3) There should be synchronization of negotiations of wages in the different industrial sectors. This should permit integration with the Chancellor's tax proposals.
- (4) Negotiation of wages and salaries should be conducted in three stages, viz:

- Stage 1. Government, TUC and CBI would meet annually to decide the scope for wage and salary increase.
- Stage 2. The three parties would decide how the share available for wages and salaries should be distributed.
- Stage 3. Each bargaining unit would be free to determine how the package resulting from Stage 2 should be distributed within the bargaining unit.

In Stage 2 the three parties would consider claims for the special treatment of particular industries. In Stage 3 employers and unions, when negotiating the distribution of the agreed amount, would take account of the need for acceptable differentials.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY BOWLBY,  
JACK LEE,  
Working Together Campaign,  
128 Marsham Court,  
Marsham Street, SW1.  
November 7.

From Sir Malby S. Crofton

Sir, It is not often that I disagree with your columnist, George Hutchinson, but I do not share his view (November 5) that, if Mr Callaghan had to call an election because of a confrontation with the miners, this would lead to a victory for the present Government.

If those circumstances did arise, then I think it would be incumbent upon the Conservative Party during the election campaign to make a radical alteration in their present approach to the whole trade union

problem. It would be necessary for us to make it clear that our party could not accept a situation in which a single trade union was able to precipitate two general elections in three years; and that, if we won, we would return at once to the question of fundamental trade union reform. That reform would then be put, before legislation was enacted, to the people of the country in a form of referendum.

I am not suggesting that our party should return to the sterile and legalistic Industrial Relations Act of far from blessed memory. I propose that the present monopoly power of the trade unions should be reduced by structural reform (Mr Benn's favourite phrase), i.e. by devolution to statutory works councils.

I believe that the only way in which we shall solve the eternal conflict in our economy is by recognizing that the big trade unions have become fundamental obstacles to economic progress. It is totally absurd that at a time when there are 1,700,000 people unemployed there should be shortages of skilled men. This is due to two things: first, restrictive practices by the unions; second, the narrowing of pay differentials as a result of TUC dictatorial pay policies. It is also absurd that national strikes should be repeatedly called over local and often trivial disputes. The whole ethos of the closed shop is unacceptable in a democratic society.

Statutory works councils would, I believe, go a long way to get round these difficulties. Such councils would consist of employees elected by postal ballot. I see no reason why they should not be the agents for profit sharing. To them would be devolved wage bargaining at plant level and most of the other functions at present carried out by the trade unions. Such works councils would have to work in close cooperation with the management. They would be entitled to receive a great deal, though not necessarily all, of the companies' confidential information. Profit sharing on a limited scale would be a necessary condition of the new system. The oppositional divide between worker and shareholder. As the works councils, elected by secret vote of all employees, would be responsible for pay and conditions bargaining, there would be no need for a closed shop.

In this way, we would achieve a major devolution of power from the national unions towards the actual places of work. I believe that, as a result, strikes called on a national scale would become much rarer; and fundamental differences (often regional) within the big unions such as are now apparent amongst the miners, the engineers and many others would be able to express themselves in a democratic way.

Yours faithfully,  
MALBY CROFTON,  
Leader of the Council,  
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,  
Town Hall,  
Kensington, W8.  
November 7.

### Union discipline

From Mr R. W. Goodman

Sir, Mr Reginald Maudling (letter, November 7) questions how the unions and, by inference, the country can exercise control over the renegade members of unions who take disruptive action, against the advice of their elected union and parliamentary representative bodies.

I would suggest that the answer is reasonably simple, at least in principle, although the implementation would, obviously, be more complicated. To men of perspective and good will, however, it would not be impossible.

It is accepted that a man has a right, under existing law, to terminate his employment by complying with the statutory requirements, i.e. giving his employer sufficient notice of his intention. This procedure has never been regarded as contentious, by any side of industry or commerce.

If, by dint of a legal change, notice of, or resort to, unofficial disruption or strike action could be equated with notice to terminate employment, the individuals concerned would have need to think about a voluntary course of action that would result in self-inflicted unemployment.

This would not effect a man's right to avoid conditions he finds unacceptable, and would leave him free to seek the conditions he requires. Similarly, the employer would have a period within which to change the conditions and there-

by retain the services of the workers, if he so wishes; or, if unable to do this, find replacement staff for those workers who have declared their intention of leaving.

Official union action, redundancy payments, etc. would not be affected and, by accepting his worker's formal notice of intention, the employer could not be accused of instigating a lock-out.

I wonder whether the main parties concerned, i.e. unions, employers, Parliament and judiciary would find it possible to come together and introduce this supplement to the existing law and thereby remove one area of vagueness in the field of industrial relations and responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,  
R. W. GOODMAN,  
32 Effingham Street,  
Rushmore, Kent.  
November 7.

From Mr Ronald E. Rushen

Sir, Mr Maudling (November 7) asks how unions can impose effective discipline on members abandoning the proper negotiating channels. The answer, surely, is by making their union card a move likely to be just as acceptable to the vast majority of workers who keep the rules as it would be beneficial to industrial peace.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. RUSHEN,  
40 Naim Road,  
Canford Cliffs,  
Poole, Dorset.

### The Zinoviev Letter

From Mr R. Page Arnot and Mr Andrew Rothstein

Sir, We refer to the letter from Mr T. R. Crawford (October 29) about the so-called Zinoviev letter as well as to the previous letters on this subject from Dr Christopher Andrew, Miss Sybil Eyre Crowe and Mr Robert Woolcombe. Both of us were members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party when that forgery was launched during the 1924 General Election. There were 20 members of the Central Committee, with two substitutes and three representatives of other organizations—not 12, as the person who was allegedly produced to the Labour Party delegation as "Head of the Secret Service" asserted. The true figures had already been published long before in the report of our 1924 Congress.

At no time was the alleged letter presented to or discussed by the Central Committee or its committees. Had it ever been laid before us, it would have met with ridicule for the numerous evidences which it contained of gross forgery by persons obviously familiar with Russian but not English terminology; as well as for its references to non-existent "military cells" and an imaginary "Military Section" and its general parodying of Communist language.

Only political illiterates in international matters, such as abounded at that time in the upper reaches of the larger political parties, or unscrupulous conspirators, here and abroad, such as those who had already, three years before, pro-

duced the forged Pravda, could have believed—or affected to believe—that the so-called letter was genuine. In this respect we agree with the exposure made in their book by Messrs Chester, Fay and Young.

Each of us was sufficiently familiar with the office machinery and routine of the Communist International headquarters to be able to confirm that the dismissal of the document as a forgery by the British Trades Union Delegation to Russia in 1924, after careful examination of files and secret letter-receivers by a deputation incidentally which included amongst its "advisory delegates" former members of Admiralty Intelligence who knew Russian well, one knowing German also, was entirely justified. The delegation's report was endorsed by the General Council and accepted by the Scarborough TUC in September 1925.

Moreover, as our colleague the late J. R. Campbell had pointed out when replying on the matter to our seventh Party Congress in May 1925, our party "not only took the straight line of denouncing this letter—a forgery which was as stupid as it was lying", but also had ever since itself been demanding an inquiry by the labour movement as to its origin. And in fact, the Labour Party committee mentioned by Mr Crawford, so far from being "convinced" as he says Thomas Johnston (not "Johnson") told him, reported on the contrary that it had been unable to find any proof of its authenticity.

Yours faithfully,  
R. PAGE ARNOT,  
ANDREW ROTHSTEIN,  
46 Byne Road, SE26.

## In praise of London grime

From Mr Feliks Topolski

Sir, Shameful tidiness. I should have registered my veto to cleaning London when it began. The lead of Mr Conibear's letter (November 3) brings me forth.

For a young Pole on his pre-war Grand Tour, alert for *l'air de la ville*, the revelation of London's otherness and beauty was in its architectural blackness, as it opened to a thrilled voyager up the Thames with mighty, soot-grained warehouses.

Today's cleaning, restoring mania forgets the Piranesi enchantment, the power of the trade unions should be reduced by structural reform (Mr Benn's favourite phrase), i.e. by devolution to statutory works councils.

I believe that the only way in which we shall solve the eternal conflict in our economy is by recognizing that the big trade unions have become fundamental obstacles to economic progress. It is totally absurd that at a time when there are 1,700,000 people unemployed there should be shortages of skilled men. This is due to two things: first, restrictive practices by the unions; second, the narrowing of pay differentials as a result of TUC dictatorial pay policies. It is also absurd that national strikes should be repeatedly called over local and often trivial disputes. The whole ethos of the closed shop is unacceptable in a democratic society.

Statutory works councils would, I believe, go a long way to get round these difficulties. Such councils would consist of employees elected by postal ballot. I see no reason why they should not be the agents for profit sharing. To them would be devolved wage bargaining at plant level and most of the other functions at present carried out by the trade unions. Such works councils would have to work in close cooperation with the management. They would be entitled to receive a great deal, though not necessarily all, of the companies' confidential information. Profit sharing on a limited scale would be a necessary condition of the new system. The oppositional divide between worker and shareholder. As the works councils, elected by secret vote of all employees, would be responsible for pay and conditions bargaining, there would be no need for a closed shop.

In this way, we would achieve a major devolution of power from the national unions towards the actual places of work. I believe that, as a result, strikes called on a national scale would become much rarer; and fundamental differences (often regional) within the big unions such as are now apparent amongst the miners, the engineers and many others would be able to express themselves in a democratic way.

Yours faithfully,  
FELIKS TOPOLSKI,  
The Tower,  
Whitchurch Court, SW1.  
November 4.

From Professor Ralph B. Pugh

Sir, Dr Margaret Gelling's letter (November 5) in which she draws attention to the exclusion of long established place names from Ordnance Survey maps, is most welcome. Others have a kindred grievance: it is their maps the Survey alter the form or spelling of place names that they themselves have long employed. This is a most annoying and undesirable recommendation a change and their policy is to respond to local custom. Thus Little Hinton, Wiltshire, which was so named in OS maps throughout the nineteenth and earlier centuries, has been changed in the 1950 6-inch survey and subsequently as Hinton Parva. If there were more such other examples could easily be given of the addition of subtraction of letters in the conversion of such words as "Lower" into "Neither".

To the contention that such changes conform to local custom there are at least two objections. First, local custom cannot be ascertained unless there is a house to house census. So far as is known, no such enquiry has ever been undertaken. Even if it were, no census taker would be able to express himself in a democratic way.

Yours faithfully,  
RALPH B. PUGH,  
Reform Club,  
Pall Mall, SW1.

### European boundaries

From Mr A. J. Turner

Sir, With the season of parliamentary debate on direct elections at hand, I am sure that the House of Commons will pay attention to accuracy and geography and refrain, even in headline, from calling them a "Europe Poll". As a teacher I find a disturbing tendency to think that Europe lies between the Pyrenees and the Berlin Wall, helped by the appropriation of terms like "European Parliament" and "European Assembly" (and even more misleadingly "European Elections") by the front page of today's *The Times* trying to adjust her spectacles.

We have seen her on her many tours doing her best with her diaries and her spectacles, and I feel quite sure that there will be many occasions in the country who—like me—will wish that someone would suggest that the Queen would look much more dignified using a lozenge which her grandmother Queen Mary used in the "Good old days".

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW TURNER, Chairman,  
Rugby Union Conservatives,  
Albert Buildings,  
Albert Street,  
Rugby.  
Warwickshire.

### Royal spectacles

From Mrs Gladys Browne

Sir, As a former member of the British Optical Association it grieves me very much to see the picture of our Queen on the front page of today's *The Times* trying to adjust her spectacles.

We have seen her on her many tours doing her best with her diaries and her spectacles, and I feel quite sure that there will be many occasions in the country who—like me—will wish that someone would suggest that the Queen would look much more dignified using a lozenge which her grandmother Queen Mary used in the "Good old days".

Yours faithfully,  
GLADYS BROWNE,  
Bankfield,  
Netherton Road,  
St Bees,  
Cumbria.

### A voice recalled

From Mr Charles Landstone

Sir, To those of us who are elder citizens, the blackouts are nothing new. In fact they bring back memories.

A couple of times during the darkness on Friday evening, I caught myself thinking: "Wouldn't it be comforting if one could switch on the radio now, and hear Churchill speaking?"

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES LANDSTONE,  
15 Springcroft Avenue,  
East Finchley, N2.  
November 4.









# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**LAING**  
MANAGEMENT  
IN  
CONSTRUCTION

### US may impose steel 'reference price' system to curb dumping

From Frank Vogel  
Washington, Nov 8

America is seriously considering adopting a "reference price" system for determining whether foreign steel shipments to the United States are being priced according to a Treasury spokesman.

Adoption of such a system could possibly result in the United States forcing European steel manufacturers in particular to raise their American selling prices and so, inevitably, lead to a significant reduction in European steel sales in the United States.

The spokesman stressed that this system "is a major option that we are examining" and that no decision had yet been made on whether to implement it. Setting the "reference price" would involve detailed consultations with foreign governments and steel manufacturers, the spokesman added.

Sixteen specific complaints have been received by the Treasury from American steel manufacturers charging that foreign producers are selling their products here below cost and that they are therefore violating anti-dumping laws.

Five members of a House sub-committee reviewing enforcement of anti-dumping laws have filed a petition with the Treasury charging dumping by the British Steel Corporation. The "reference price" system would seek to prevent further dumping in a swift and direct manner by basing it on American calculations of foreign steel manufacturing costs, plus transport costs. The figure arrived at would then serve as the "reference" level and foreign manufacturers charging lower prices would be faced with a levy that would take their price up to at least the "reference price".

This complicated system would almost certainly involve some subjective decisions by the American authorities over what are fair prices for foreign steel.

The promised consultations with foreign governments would almost certainly produce difficult results. For example, it would probably dispute the production cost estimates for the British Steel Corporation.

Adoption of such a "reference price" system is now being considered by Mr. Anthony Solomon, the Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the Treasury, who is heading a special task force to examine the problems of the American steel industry.

The Treasury spokesman said that Mr. Solomon's report was likely to be presented to the White House "economic policy group" within two weeks and that this body would then make formal recommendations to President Carter by the end of this month.

Mr. Wilhelm Haferskamp, the vice-president of the European Commission, said here after meetings with top Washington officials, that the United States Government had not yet settled a plan or set of proposals for dealing with "the steel crisis".

He said of the "reference price" idea that he would not exclude any proposal, including one dealing with prices in the joint discussions. "It is too early still to talk about technicalities".

It seems possible that the "reference price" concept will be adopted by the Treasury would then have to work out prices for each foreign steel product sold here and it would charge levies on those products now selling at below the set level. The levies would remain until a decision on whether the foreign steel prices constituted dumping.

### Saudi's 'preference for pound' lifts sterling

By Caroline Arkinson

Sterling soared by more than two cents to just under \$1.53 in a few minutes of hectic trading yesterday afternoon, on the news of a report in an Arab publication published in Paris, that Saudi Arabians will shortly ask for part of their oil payments to be made in sterling instead of dollars.

The story, in *Al-Nahar Arab Report*, suggested that the Saudis had already approached the British Government for its reaction to the offer. The London denied all knowledge of such an approach.

The pound rose on the first news of the report, which came after the close of trading in Europe. It closed up 2.55 cents on the day at \$1.5285 in London. However, in afternoon trading the rate slipped back to below \$1.52, as the markets feared of the official British denial.

Rumours that members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are going to react to the recent weakness of the dollar with some move to protect their revenues have been rife for some time. These have previously centred on the possibility of an oil price denominated in Special Drawing Rights.

It was not clear from the report whether the Saudis were thinking of fixing a sterling price for some of their oil, or of requiring initial payment in sterling.

If the latter, it would be a reversion to the situation before 1975 when sterling was used for some oil payments.

Frank Vogel writes from Washington: Top American oil company officials said they had not been informed by their bankers or by their middle eastern contacts of any such plans by any of the major oil-producing countries to start taking sterling in payment for oil. Pound improves: In Chicago last night, sterling ended around 14 cents higher than Monday's closing level, at \$1.5285, according to a Saudi Arabian report. New York banks were closed for the national elections. The dollar closed weaker.

### International Chamber will defend draft code to outlaw bribery Germany, France and Belgium oppose joint action for tougher measures on corruption

By Malcolm Brown

A major row is brewing over a controversial international initiative to fight corruption in business.

The council of the 54-nation International Chamber of Commerce will meet in Paris on November 29 to discuss the final version of a report drawn up by an ICC-appointed committee of eminent figures set up in late 1975 to investigate the extent of corruption in business and suggest how it might be combated.

The committee included Lord Shawcross, Mr. Jean Rey, former president of the European Economic Commission, and Sheikh Yassini, Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister.

It proposed an international code on bribery and extortion and the establishment of a top-level council to oversee and implement the code. The code is understood to be that the council would be able to examine infringements of the code only with the permission of the accused parties.

But in a controversial move the commission is believed to have included a provision which would give the council powers to name organisations denounced to it as having given bribes if the organisation refused to appear before it.

This would be done only where the council believed there was a strong case to be answered and judged that the public interest would be best served by publishing the names of those involved and the alleged transactions.

These and other proposals will be backed by Britain and the United States, but there is likely to be strong criticism from West Germany, France and Belgium.

These three countries have already made it clear that they oppose draconian measures by the ICC and may have been instrumental in watering down earlier versions of the recommendations, to the extent that several members of the commission now believe that there has been an organized campaign to undermine the whole initiative.

France's representatives at the ICC, in particular, are said to have made it clear from the start that they thought corruption was a matter for governments to fight, and that a supra-national body of the type envisaged by the commission could lead to a dangerous situation in which one company might, for malicious reasons, accuse another of giving bribes.

The code's opponents take the view that the ICC should not set itself up in judgment on such matters and should restrict itself only to issuing guidelines.

The commission put an early draft of its proposals before a large meeting of ICC members in Versailles in June. Its members felt that at that meeting and subsequently they made a number of major concessions in an attempt to accommodate their critics. But they are determined not to be associated with a toothless code, and will be pressing their supporters to stand firm at the November 29 meeting.

The code would outlaw bribes and kickbacks. Organizations, which would submit to the code on a voluntary basis, would be expected to police their own transactions and undertake not to maintain any undisclosed accounts.

Organizations would also keep records of intermediaries used by them to deal with public bodies, and these records would have to be open to government inspection.

### Scotland's companies on microfilm

By Our Financial Staff

Scottish company records are to be microfilmed over the next two years following completion of microfilming of English and Welsh records and their transfer from Companies House in London to Cardiff.

Mr. Stanley Clinton Davies, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, said in answer to a parliamentary question yesterday that microfilm would start in the next few months at the Companies Registration Office in Edinburgh. Microfilm reading facilities are progressively to be introduced.

### Skytrain profit of £284,000 in six weeks

The Laker cheap-fare Skytrain service to New York made a net profit in its first six weeks of £284,000. Up to November 7, the airline's daily DC-10 345-seater aircraft have operated with an average of 82 per cent filled.

Mr. Freddie Laker announced the figures yesterday when he opened a Skytrain office at London's Victoria Station.

### Vehicle output down in October

The British motor industry produced 105,000 cars during October, according to provisional figures from the Department of Industry. This represented a sharp decrease on the high levels of production in October last year when 141,000 vehicles were produced. Commercial vehicle production was 32,700 compared with 39,300 last year.

### Price inflation index at four-year low

By Derek Harris

The drop in the rate of price rises, recorded in September, was maintained last month.

According to the latest Price Commission index, on yesterday's index acts as an early warning on price movements, usually reflected in the shops about three months later, the provisional October figures indicate an annual inflation rate for prices in the commission's field of 7.3 per cent.

It was the lowest figure since September, 1973, and compares with a September figure of 7.8 per cent and one for August of 11.7 per cent.

There has been a progressive reduction from the high March figure of nearly 21 per cent. But a warning note on the future of price increases, particularly the effect of high pay settlements, was sounded by Mr. Charles Williams, the commission's chairman.

"It is most encouraging that we are getting far fewer price rises than we were used to moving into a period of greater price stability," he commented. "How long this stability will last depends on many factors that are difficult to forecast. The level of pay settlements will be very important, particularly if manufacturers seek to pass on increased wage costs in increased prices."

There is also still some concern in Whitehall at the decline in the commission's index, based on the prenotification of price rises by big companies, could to an extent mask a pent-up price demand. Some manufacturers may have postponed implementing increases until the new price controls, which took effect from August, are clearer.

In three months since the beginning of August the commission has received only about 650 price notifications, an average of fewer than 230 a month compared with the 580 a month during the previous seven months.

On the other hand the wholesale price index earlier this week showed an October drop of 1 per cent in the purchase price of manufacturing industry's raw materials and fuels—a decline for the sixth month running.

The commission's index does not equate exactly with the Retail Price Index (RPI), which covers a greater variety of goods and services. But the commission index has proved a reliable indicator of the trend of price rises, although the lag between prenotification of rises and their implementation means a gap of at least three months before the trend shows up in the RPI.

Mr. Hugh Clayton writes: Inflation in processed foods should soon decline, as the Institute of Grocery Distribution said in its latest *Economic Bulletin* yesterday. Raw materials, accounted for almost two thirds of costs so that the cuts in input prices enjoyed by the rest of mass manufacturing industry had been delayed for food.

There are encouraging signs of near-record harvests for many United Kingdom crops, especially cereals and potatoes, the institute said. "This should greatly assist later raw material prices and already it is predicted that from chips could fall by 25 per cent shortly."

The rate of increase in import costs, the second most important cost in food processing, had dropped below 10 per cent for the first time in six years, the institute pointed out. The comparable figure in the spring of 1975 was 30 per cent.

The bulletin reflects the fear of food traders that they may be bypassed in any growth of consumer spending.

### Shares rally on improved pay outlook

By David Mott

Share prices made their first substantial rally for more than a fortnight on the London stock market yesterday with the FT index closing 11.5 ahead at 492.2. A key factor in the day's rise was a Government determination to resist the more extravagant pay claims and the favourable turn of events in the power workers' dispute inspired a cautious return to the market by investors, even though many of the biggest gains were helped by the closing of "bear" positions.

Rumours late in the day that the Arab oil producers wanted to accept a 10 per cent cut in oil prices rather than the dollar gave a lift to sterling and, in turn, long-dated gilts, adding another quarter point to earlier gains which had stretched to 100 points since the start of the year.

Though the rally in equities was overdue, if only for technical reasons, dealers were saying it was likely to continue for long and would be looking for a more two-way trade over the next few days.

Not the least factor in their reasoning is a clutch of results from leading industrial companies which are due in the next couple of weeks, three of them being in the 30-share group of companies which, they argue, is bound to bring a cautious approach to the "blue chips", at least until the results are out.

The companies concerned are British United Cattle Raisers and ICI and for the last two, at least, there has been some caution in the market recently. Looking to the longer term, the market to progress has with the market level of pay settlements.

The market remains extremely sensitive to any major breach of the Government's 10 per cent guideline.

Financial Editor, page 19

### Money stock growth less than feared

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

Fear that the money supply might have been growing even faster in the banking month to mid-October than the 2.2 per cent growth seen in September may well be unfounded.

Even so, growth could well have been high enough to leave the Government above its annualized growth ceiling of 13 per cent after the first six months of the financial year.

The preliminary indication on the likely trend in money supply growth comes in the figures for the banking system's eligible liabilities—essentially the sterling deposits—published this morning. These show that in the four weeks to October 19, eligible liabilities rose by £906m, or 2.3 per cent, to £39,712m.

To arrive at the figures for sterling M3, the broad-based definition of money supply, the authorities will make certain adjustments, particularly for the increase in overseas residents' deposits.

These adjustments should make for a rather smaller increase in the sterling M3 particularly as the seasonal adjustment, which was sharply upwards in October last year, appears unlikely to be more than marginal this time.

Even though the rise in sterling M3 may turn out to be rather less explosive than some clear that the size of the inflows across the exchanges before the Government opted to let sterling float were building up into a formidable problem.

For though the rise in eligible liabilities was rather less in October than it had been in September, this was only after substantially higher sales of government debt.

The London clearing banks estimate that a good part of a £515m rise in United Kingdom bank residents' sterling deposits last month reflected, in one way or another, the inflow of money across the exchanges.

In total, the London clearing banks' sterling deposits rose by £515m in the four weeks to September 19, and had been £33,801m. Within this total there was a rise of £678m in sight deposits, reflecting strong growth in current accounts and an increase in borrowing from the money markets.

By contrast, time deposits fell by £69m in spite of certificates of deposit issues of £127m. This suggests that there was a considerable outflow of small deposits from the banks, probably to the building societies or National Savings.

The clearing banks' lending to the private sector picked up again over the month, straight lending rising by £159m (or some £200m seasonally adjusted) and bill finance by £20m.

Financial Editor, page 19

### Hitachi puts in offer to purchase Mullard colour television tubes

By Our Commercial Editor

Hitachi has made a formal offer to purchase Mullard's television tubes from Mullard, the Philips subsidiary, which is Britain's sole remaining colour tube maker.

This follows a favourable conclusion to an assessment by British television experts on marrying the Mullard tube with the Hitachi set chassis.

There had been considerable scepticism in the British electronic components industry generally, as well as at Mullard itself, at the Japanese electronics group would be prepared to make an agreement to buy British tubes.

It was felt that Hitachi would want to acquire a proportion of tubes from the Philips factory in which it has a minority stake.

The offer to Mullard would involve a third of the first year's production of 75,000 sets planned for the controversial Hitachi television set making factory at Washington new town, near Newcastle upon Tyne.

The plan is to take 20,000 26-inch tubes and 5,000 22-inch tubes, all of them of the ultra-compact 110 degree design. A substantial number of these 100 degree tubes would be exported elsewhere in Europe where this type of tube, although more expensive overall, is more popular.

If the deal came off it would mean Hitachi would reach a figure of 50 per cent British sourcing of components for its British factory, the Department of Industry delayed a decision on whether to give a go-ahead for the Washington factory.

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Financial Editor, page 19

Financial Editor, page 19

### How the markets moved

Rises		
Abber Day	4p to 35p	
Brit Car Auction	5p to 28p	
Britannic	10p to 17p	
CH Industrials	3p to 30p	
Crested, R.	3p to 30p	
Gen Accident	10p to 15p	
Heath, C. E.	21p to 24p	
Imp Chem Ind	8p to 37p	
Kwik Fit	16p to 101p	
Nelson Fin	4p to 48p	
Morgan-Gruamp	10p to 17p	

Falls		
Assum Frontier	8p to 36p	
Imp Cold Store	5p to 100p	
Maritime Con	8p to 94p	

Equities rallied. Gilt-edged securities were firmer. Dollar premium: 94.5 per cent (effective rate 34.65 per cent). Sterling closed at 1.5285. The effective exchange rate index was up 0.1 at 63.5.

### On other pages

Business appointments	20
Appointments vacant	23, 25
Bank Base Rates Table	23

Interim Statements:	20
Associated British Foods	20
Costas Patons	25

The Times index: 20534+3.44

The FT index: 492.2+11.5

### THE POUND

	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	1.45	1.60
Canada \$	39.50	22.50
Belgium Fr	66.25	63.25
Denmark Kr	1.25	1.09
France Fr	11.50	10.90
Germany Dr	9.40	4.72
Greece Dr	4.25	4.04
Italy Lira	72.50	63.00
Japan Yen	162.00	155.00
Netherlands Gld	4.50	4.37
Norway Kr	10.21	9.35
Portugal Esc	75.75	72.75
Spain Pes	1.75	1.63
Sweden Kr	1.50	1.40
Switzerland Fr	1.25	1.10
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.50	36.50

Notes for small denomination bank notes and coins are available from the Bank of England. The rates apply to travellers' cheques and bank drafts.

### Brussels-Hongkong talks on textile pact suspended

By Peter Waymark

Brussels, Nov 8.—The European Community and Hongkong today suspended negotiations on a bilateral textile agreement without setting a date for resumption of the talks.

Hongkong previously termed the Community's proposals for reducing the Crown colony's textile exports to the Community as "unreasonable" and "totally unacceptable".

Hongkong's counter-proposals drafted last week were equally unacceptable to Brussels, a Community spokesman said.

The decision to suspend the talks came after Hongkong declared its counter-proposals as its final position which, according to the Brussels negotiators, does not provide a basis for further negotiations.

Brussels is now negotiating or about to start negotiations with 34 producer nations of the

### Subaru target of 10,000 cars a year by 1982

By Peter Waymark

Importers of the Japanese Subaru car, which go on sale in Britain for the first time on December 1, expect to sell at least 10,000 units annually within five years.

Announcing this yesterday, Mr. Robert Adamson, managing director of Subaru (UK), said that anything less would make the operation uneconomic. The eventual aim was to capture 1 per cent of the market.

Subaru's entry into Britain comes at a time of renewed concern about the level of Japanese car imports which, in the first ten months of the year, achieved a penetration of 10.9 per cent.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday that the figures suggested a higher penetration for 1977 than forecast during a meeting with the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association in September.

### NEB to set up regional boards in the North

By Our Industrial Editor

The National Enterprise Board is to establish regional boards in the North and North West. They will consist of part-time members from industry and the trade unions, drawn from the areas, together with the NEB's directors for the regions concerned.

The new boards, which will meet in their regions, will be chaired by the deputy chairman of the NEB, still to be appointed. In the meantime, Mr. Bob Dickinson, a part-time member of the NEB will act as chairman.

Mr. Dickinson was formerly managing director of SKF (UK) Ltd.

The boards will receive delegated authority to approve country-based investment of up to £500,000. They will also make recommendations on investments exceeding that figure. No limit has been set on the total funds available to these boards.

Mr. Leslie Murphy, NEB chairman, intends making special visits to both regions before the end of the year. He will announce the names of the members as soon as possible.

Mr. Murphy said yesterday: "The NEB can help the regions in two ways. First, by making a success of nationally important companies in which it has holdings. Secondly, and this is where the regional offices come in, by encouraging the expansion of locally-based companies with sound projects, which have such a vital contribution to the future prosperity of the regions."

Reaction to the NEB's statement was swift. Mr. Michael Gyllis, MP for Surrey NW, vice-chairman of the Conservative Industry group, said last night he would be making up the question of the cost of extra staff and resources involved. It proved that the NEB was set on expanding its empire and, particularly at this time, profitable industry would resent this development, he said.

Fred Emery, Political Editor, writes: Labour MPs opposing the NEB's plan for Scotland and Wales did not leap with enthusiasm for the two new subsidiaries of the NEB announced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. Colin Phillips, Labour MP for Dudley West, who acts as an unofficial whip for his fellow party opponents, said that his soundings showed that regardless of the NEBs—which he suggested were irrelevant to the issue—he thought it was "rough and go" whether the Government would now succeed in its intended guillotine motion next week. His warning is the most ominous for the Government since the new Bills were introduced last week.

Some observers had suggested that it was to "sweeten" those opposing special attention for Scotland that Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, had brought forward the "mini" NEBs. This implication is firmly resisted at the NEB where it is pointed out that the subsidiaries had long been scheduled and that the NEB retained control of the board appointments and the capital invested.



## Rebel Leyland toolmakers going to first national pay negotiations

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars' first national pay negotiations on Friday—the result of the recent ballot by the workforce—will be attended by delegates of the 3,000 rebel toolmakers led by Mr Roy Fraser.

Three months ago they withdrew from the joint union-management working party at a crucial stage in the preparation of the pay and industrial relations package which now forms the basis of the company's proposal for group-wide pay negotiations.

At that time Mr Fraser said the toolmakers saw little to be gained from staying on a body split by a dispute between his own union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and the Transport and General Workers Union, which claims to represent 70 per cent of the company's manual workers.

Since then the TGWU's opposition to group-wide bargaining has been overtaken by the 2-1 ballot in favour of a

method which the company claims is the only effective means of restoring parity in its 34 plants and meeting the toolmakers' demands for the restoration of skill differentials.

Clearly the tool makers want to stake their claim to seats on the new national joint negotiating committee to be set up at the meeting in Coventry.

But there was a setback from another quarter last night: the TGWU's biggest branch—Oxford 5/60—which represents 7,000 employees in Leyland's Cowley body plant, want to end the company's three-tier participation machinery.

The Cowley men allege that the participation bodies are beginning to meddle in pay matters.

As a result of this his branch had voted to withdraw and seek an early meeting of shop stewards from the company's 34 plants to recommend similar action.

Some 2,000 Cowley workers

have been laid off since Friday because a strike at Smiths Industries has cut supplies of speedometers. Production of Maxi and Princess cars is at a standstill.

A further 3,500 are laid off at Triumph, Speke and Triumph, Coventry, where 1,500 men are on strike against management moves to improve productivity. Production of TR7 and Dolomite models has halted.

Vauxhall meeting: The 3,000 skilled workers on strike at Vauxhall Motors for the past fortnight have been called to a meeting at Luton today to consider an improved pay offer by the company. It is understood that shop stewards will recommend a return to work.

Ford strike: The number of men laid off at Ford's Halewood plant rose to 4,000 at the end of the day shift yesterday. The management told 2,000 men from the body shop not to report today. The layoffs are because of a strike by 200 paint-shop workers.

## Sweden unveils steel reorganization plan to merge three groups

Stockholm, Nov 8.—Sweden's government today unveiled plans to merge the country's three chief producers of ordinary commercial steel into a single 50 per cent state-owned company from next January.

The new company, to be called Svenska Stål AB, would include the iron mining, transport and commercial steel production facilities of Gränges AB and Stora Kopparbergs AB, each with a 25 per cent stake and the state-owned Norrbottens Järnverk steel mill at Uleånga, the ministry of industry said.

The ministry said the Cabinet would submit a Bill to parliament next month under which Gränges, Stora Kopparbergs, and Stålskrovet, the state enterprise group parent company of Norrbottens Järnverk, would each contribute 100m kronor (£8m) to the new group. The state would contribute another 700m kronor through Stålskrovet in the form of a new share issue.

Gränges and Stora Kopparbergs have agreed to retain their shares in Svenska Stål for at least five years, when extensive streamlining of pro-

duction and manpower cut-backs would be undertaken after talks with unions, the ministry said.

The government has pledged to lead the firm 3,100m kronor, more than half of which could be written off under certain conditions.

Earlier today the Stock Exchange said Gränges' shares had been suspended on the London and Stockholm exchanges.

The ministry said for 15 years, the state would pay Stålskrovet 450m kronor to cover the difference between the book value of Norrbottens Järnverk and the company's share of Svenska Stål's starting capital.

The state would also pay Gränges 340m kronor over the same period as compensation.

The starting capital of Svenska Stål would consist of 2,000m kronor in share capital and a reserve fund of 30m kronor.

Commenting on the ministry announcement Mr Bo Abrahamsson, Gränges' managing director, predicted state loans and the restructuring of the industry meant Svenska Stål should in the long run be able to provide a reasonable dividend on capital.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Oil: when will demand exceed supply?

From Francis Wayne

Sir, From The Times of October 24 we learn, authoritatively and precisely, that the oil reserves of the world are between 76.2 billion and 1,110 billion tonnes. Whichever of these is correct (and I back your Science Editor) what really matters is:

(a) When will world demand for oil exceed supply?

(b) How much will the cost of exploration and extraction increase in difficult areas?

(c) What will be the cost of the small yield of light oil from shale and tar sands?

(d) When will (a), (b) and (c) make oil too costly to burn?

(e) How, without oil, does an aircraft fly or a road vehicle travel far?

(f) What is the capital cost and lead-time for producing the successors to oil-burning engines?

(g) Where can we use electricity, which will be the medium of almost all post-oil power (for example hydro, wind, waves, wind and nuclear)?

(h) What are we doing to electrify and expand our railways for inland transport, and to build non-oil ships for overseas transport?

If the answers to (a) and (d) are in the 1980's and 1990's respectively, we have

not much time. If the answer to (e) is that we do not yet know, or that we cannot mine enough coal to use three times the present production for making oil from it, or that any other suggested solutions require too much capital expenditure, or more raw materials than we have, or take too long to develop, or are too dangerous, should we think about (h)?

This seems the only answer, using proved methods, to a world problem of which only the timing is uncertain, unless there is some totally unforeseeable technical development, which seems unlikely in the time available.

Should we go on building airports and motorways with money which we will need for other more long term forms of transport? For how long will aircraft and road vehicles be practical economies?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS WAYNE,  
Eise-Brachaidh,  
Lockhart,  
Aberdeen IV27 4LR.

Far from being "uninformed and unmoved" about the enormous potential of the offshore resources surrounding this country, we as students were frustrated and amazed by the apparent lack of interest shown by the Government and others. This lackadaisical approach is astonishing when it is known that, for instance, a barrage across the Severn would provide one fifth of our total electricity supply, or that 600km of wave installations would provide the total supply—ask for £135 per week and more!

Yet with innovations of this sort only "just around the corner"—technologically speaking—facilities at Bangor (and, I'm sure, at other marine laboratories in this country where the necessary research is carried on) remain at a pitiful level, and "uninformed" students like myself go into other employment.

The sooner the Government wake up to the fact that North Sea oil is only a temporary source of energy, and plough back some of the profits into research for the future, the better.

Yours faithfully,  
R. C. HEARN,  
Fox Cottage,  
Leigh,  
Reigate,  
Surrey.

## Free Democrats back reactor programme

From Peter Norman

Bomb, Nov 8

A compromise formula that should open the way for the building of five or six nuclear power stations in West Germany was approved by the Free Democrat party congress in Kiel today by a large majority.

The congress agreed to dilute the standpoint adopted by the party's main federal committee in June that would have subjected the building of nuclear plants to an effective moratorium of three years.

Instead it approved a motion drawn up by Otto Graf Lambsdorff, Economics Minister, under which construction permits for "a few nuclear power stations" can be granted on three conditions.

These are that the final storage of highly radioactive nuclear waste is judged feasible from a safety viewpoint. The interim storage of used fuel elements is held to be "beyond doubt in terms of safety and technology", and the first positive results of geological investigations into the suitability of Gorleben, in Lower Saxony, as a site for a nuclear waste dump, are available.

It will be left to the government and parliament to decide whether these conditions are

fulfilled. One opponent of the motion today charged that it was equivalent to giving Graf Lambsdorff authority to approve the plants.

Today's decision has removed one political barrier to the further development of nuclear power in Germany. It is expected that next week's Social Democrat party congress in Hamburg will adopt a motion similar to that approved by the Free Democrats and to remove the purely political impediments to Germany's nuclear power programme.

Certain individual nuclear power stations will continue to be blocked by court actions brought by environmentalist groups.

But acceptance of the Lambsdorff compromise removes in part one of the major uncertainties hanging over the economy.

It has been estimated that the opposition to nuclear power station projects has prevented or delayed investments amounting to DM20,000m (£5,000m).

Uncertainty over the future of electricity supplies has been cited as a major factor behind industry's reluctance to invest.

The slowdown in the German power station building programme has also forced contractors and component suppliers into dismissing labour and introducing short-time working.



Mr John Morris yesterday: mission to Japan.

### Hopes for Tokyo investment in UK

Britain had high hopes that Japanese companies would increase their investment in the United Kingdom, Mr John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, said yesterday.

Last week Mr Morris headed an investment mission to Japan and said he had been encouraged by the response to the visit.

Feeling in Japan was that the timing had been opportune. The Japanese were fully aware that setting up plants in Britain provided access to the European Economic Community.

Mr Morris said he went to the country as a kind of "super salesman".

## £5m Whitehall grants for drop forgings

By Maurice Corina

Industrial Editor

State aid up to £5m is to be given to drop forgings manufacturers under an Industry Act scheme announced yesterday by Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry. Grants for modernising production facilities, health, safety or environmental standards.

Ruled out, however, will be projects aimed primarily at meeting and pollution, health, safety or environmental standards.

This could cause some disappointment because employers have been conscious of the noise levels of hammers and presses in their efforts to improve working conditions.

The drop forgings industry has an output of around £250m a year, with 70 per cent of production going to the vehicle sector.

CKM, with eight forging establishments accounts for over half the output, and in

Britain there are about 1,100 hammers, 115 presses and 80 horizontal forging machines.

Pressure for an aid scheme came from the sector's working party which examined the industry's problems as part of the Government's developing industrial strategy.

Companies eligible for aid will be those where average annual output over the past three years had not exceeded 5,000 tonnes and where capital investment schemes cost between £50,000 and £500,000.

It is felt that bigger concerns can take advantage of selective investment incentives offered from other parts of the Government's portfolio of state aids.

Qualifying companies can get grants of 25 per cent of net eligible costs of equipment and machinery, or 20 per cent of net qualifying costs of new buildings or improvements to buildings.

For approved consultancy studies, grants of 50 per cent will be available if linked to investment opportunities for improving productivity.

## Wider role for commodities fund sought

Geneva, Nov 8.—Developing countries insist that the common fund they seek for financing price-regulating buffer stocks of commodities must also be empowered to grant credits for other measures.

The industrial states participating in the 106-nation commodity conference were told that one of the main objectives of the envisaged fund is to act as "an instrument for the establishment of the new international economic order".

## Subsidies 'prolonging shipyards agony'

By Michael Baily

Shipping Correspondent

Next year will probably be worse than 1977 for new ship orders Mr Peter Walters, president of the General Council of British Shipping, and a managing director of BP said last night.

Building unwanted vessels with government subsidies to shipyards was merely "an expensive way of prolonging the agony for yards which have no future, and of damaging those which have", he asserted.

In a speech to shipowners and brokers in Glasgow, Mr Walters

declared: "At the end of the day the future of the world's shipbuilding industries hinges on the health of the shipping industry and the number of ships that are needed to carry the world's cargoes. Demand for ships will not go up just because yards have spare capacity."

More than 20 British owners had ordered this year—a poor year—but 1978 could be worse.

The reason is clear. "Trump freights are depressed, and owners are having a hard enough task maintaining instalments on existing ships."

"In such circumstances few tramp owners want to buy further ships, and those who do may well settle for secondhand ships, or vessels already on the stocks for their owners."

Situation deteriorating: Sir James Dunne, chairman of the International Maritime Industries Forum said in London last night that the world shipping and shipbuilding situation was getting worse. Demand was unlikely to reach capacity before the mid-1980s, he said, after a meeting of international shipowners, shipbuilders, bankers and oil industry leaders.

## £6.7m EEC aid for research on hydrocarbons

British companies working on offshore oil and gas development projects have been awarded grants worth £6.7m by the European Economic Community under a programme to improve the security of European hydrocarbon projects.

British grants accounted for 31 per cent of the money allocated by the EEC for this purpose this year. Chief beneficiaries were Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons (total subsea production systems); Foster Wheeler (flexible high pressure riser and an early production facility); Scott Lithgow (improvement of an existing tension-leg platform); Vickers Oceanic (underwater working system); and British Petroleum (full-scale development of separator process).

## High pay should end concessions

From Mr R. B. W. Boyd

Sir, I hope the power workers will consider implications of their claim for concessionary electricity from their employers, and ask whether they have any more right to such a concession than any other group of workers. If they demand free electricity, why should workers in the gas industry not follow suit? Then the Post Office will be demanding free stamps and telephone calls. Local authority workers will perhaps get in on the act by striking for reduced rates, and inland revenue officials for lower taxes.

There would be no end to it, and the net result would be that everyone would pay more for other people's concessions than they get back from their own. While, of course, those who have no concessions to demand and no collective power will come off worst as usual.

Such concessions have traditionally been offered as compensation for accepting lower than average wages, but surely these days the receipt of a full industrial wage should put an end to the practice anyway, and then applies also to the minorworkmen.

RICHARD BOYD,  
44 Burton Road Lane,  
Mill Hill,  
London NW7 1AL.

## Risk/reward ratio in investment

From Mr D. C. Damant

Sir, In his article about the West German economy in your edition of October 21, Roger Berghout suggests that in Germany banks and companies put more emphasis on social and technological factors than on the risk/reward ratio, whereas the British system focuses its interest on the shares market where short term performance looms large.

It is not a matter of opinion but of logic that if the risk/reward ratio is not right, over the broad mass of investment then the gross national product will not increase. The class of investments where the risks run are greater than the rewards received will consume rather than generate wealth.

The fact of the matter is that in Germany it has been possible to assume a generally favourable risk/reward ratio, thus enabling industrialists and others to direct their attention to social and technological factors. This has not been the case in the United Kingdom.

As regards the short term view taken in this country, this is not a result of the shares market, which merely reflects the underlying reality. There are quite enough investors who can and do take the long view—indeed such investors from the insurance companies and pension funds are now becoming the dominant force in the market.

The short term view in this

country has been due to the shortness of the economic cycle, the sharpness of the "not" each time the higher rate of inflation (thus increasing the risk) and the higher rate of interest; this latter factor not only puts up the return which is required on industrial investment but also, and perhaps most important for this argument, increases the rate at which future cash flows are discounted.

With a high rate of interest, the short term performance of any investment becomes very much more important than distant cash flows, which, on the other hand, become more significant when interest rates are low as in Germany.

As regards the integrated nature of financial institutions in Germany, it would certainly be possible to put forward political objections to the existence of banks which hold shares portfolios, exercise a large number of votes on behalf of shareholders, lend money to companies and also sit on their boards. The class of interest alone would give rise to a number of ethical questions, for example the question of insider trading. Further, in different economic circumstances the integrated system might not prove economically advantageous.

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## C. E. Heath & Co. Limited

INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS REINSURANCE BROKERS AND UNDERWRITING AGENTS

### INTERIM REPORT 1977/78

Unaudited results for the six months to 30th September 1977

Comparative results	Six months to 30th September 1977	Percentage increase	Year to 31st March 1977
	£'000		£'000
Net Brokerage income	3,401	+51%	2,249
Net Underwriting income	1,903	+81%	1,064
Operating profit	5,468	+48%	3,692
Net profit attributable	2,533	+50%	1,692
Earnings per share	8.8p		6.3p

- Total Group profit before tax is £5,442,000 (1976 £3,650,000) an increase of 49%. An interim dividend of 1.452p per share net will be paid on 5th January 1978. This is equivalent to 2.2p gross (1976 - 2.0p gross) and in the event of any relaxation of dividend restraint a substantially increased final dividend would be recommended.
- Our insurance broking income was £7.77 million which is an increase of 34%. These figures are not enhanced by gains from currency fluctuations and therefore represent a solid achievement. The continued development of our UK operations is most encouraging and our Overseas insurance broking operations are showing further improvement.
- Lloyd's underwriting profit commission is excluded from these interim figures. We have already forecast a loss for the 1975 account (albeit much smaller than 1974) and expect that 1976 will break even. Our Agencies company, which underwrites outside Lloyd's, is showing good progress and the Australian underwriting operation is also continuing to progress satisfactorily.
- Total investment income of £1,807,000 reflects higher interest rates in Australia and the USA.
- Despite the recent revaluation of sterling we are confident that substantial real growth will be achieved in the second half of the year.

F.R.D. HOLLAND, Chairman

Copies of the full Interim Report are available from the Secretary, C. E. Heath & Co. Limited, Colindale Heath House, 151-154 Minories, London EC3N 1NR. Telephone 01-498 2468.

## An International Group in many fields of textiles

# COATS PATONS LIMITED

### Interim Announcement

Unaudited results for January/June 1977 and the comparative figures for 1976 are as follows:	Jan./June 1977	Jan./June 1976	Year 1976
Turnover	£323,591	£299,821	£615,018
Trading profit before charging depreciation	49,273	38,712	88,818
Less: Depreciation	6,141	5,576	10,742
Trading profit	43,132	33,136	78,076
Interest and other charges	3,214	2,614	5,127
Profits of associated companies	39,918	30,522	72,949
Investment and other income	285	916	2,000
Profit before taxation	40,906	31,943	76,426
Taxation	17,738	13,770	32,586
Investment grants	23,168	18,173	43,740
Profit after taxation	23,349	18,350	44,182
Interest of minority shareholders	2,983	2,626	5,567
Profit before extraordinary items	20,366	15,724	38,615
Extraordinary losses	188	372	528
Preference dividends	20,178	15,352	37,985
Profit earned for ordinary shareholders	20,154	15,328	37,983
Ordinary dividends	3,290	2,874	8,070
Profit retained	16,864	12,454	29,913
Earnings per ordinary share of 25p	7.7p	5.7p	13.5p

Rates of exchange used are those estimated to be effective at 31st December 1977, the U.S. Dollar rate taken being \$1.936 £1.

The Sterling value of sales rose by £24 million, or 8%, over the same period last year. Price increases and a modest overall improvement in volume contributed £56 million which was partially offset by a reduction of £32 million due to exchange rate movements.

Thread sales were some 3% lower in volume than in 1976 mainly due to very poor market conditions in Western Europe. The other Coats Division products held up well everywhere. Yarns & Fabrics, Garments and Hand Knittings Divisions operated at higher activity levels in the U.K.

Trading profit increased by £10 million, or 30%, despite adverse exchange movements which, at £7 million, substantially exceeded our forecast. Coats Division, although absorbing the major portion of the exchange difference, accounted for 60% of the profit increase.

Although we derived benefit from the fall in interest rates in the U.K., increased borrowing requirements led to a substantial increase in the interest charge.

The drop in associate companies' profits is entirely due to very poor trading conditions in India.

An overall tax rate of 43% has been used, based on our estimate of the rate for the year. No provision is required for Advance Corporation Tax not immediately recoverable.

Profit earned for Ordinary shareholders is 31% up at £20 million.

The downward trend in thread volume sales continues, with Western Europe the most seriously affected. Whereas Hand Knittings and Garments Divisions held up reasonably well, Yarns & Fabrics Division has operated during the second half-year at lower activity levels. Additionally, adverse exchange movements have, as previously mentioned, been heavier than expected and our original forecast of 1977 profits does seem unachievable. We would, however, expect 1977 profits to exceed those of 1976.

An interim dividend of 1.1603p per share (1976 1.038p) will be paid on 30th December 1977, together with the second instalment of the final dividend for 1976 of 0.6288p per share, resulting from the reduction in the rate of the ordinary dividend. The two dividends, totalling 1.8891p per share, will be paid to the ordinary shareholders on the register on 18th November 1977.

## Birmingham 'needs to expand industrial base'

Birmingham is "disastrously dependent on the motor industry and must expand its industrial base to ensure an economic future. A meeting, convened by Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the city council and attended by more than 100 senior executives, was held yesterday that 60,000 jobs had been lost because government controls on expansion had forced companies to move away.

## Saudis seek accord on Opec oil prices

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Oil Minister, said during a visit to Abu Dhabi that his country wanted to avoid a new split over oil prices in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. He said Saudi Arabia was trying to avoid from the beginning differences of opinion between Opec states.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## If the Saudis want sterling . . . .

Rumours that the Saudis would like at least part of their oil revenues put on to a sterling pricing basis sent stock markets sharply higher yesterday afternoon on the assumption that the Saudis would also be keen to hold a higher proportion of their income in sterling assets in future.

Certainly, most of the Opec countries are far from happy about the dollar situation at the moment, but how the position will develop from here remains to be seen. As far as the British Government is concerned such a move would presumably fly straight in the face of everything it has been trying to do over the past year, both in terms of unwinding overseas government sterling balances and pulling sterling out of world trade financing.

Meanwhile, markets will start doing their money supply projections this morning from the latest figures for the banking system's eligible liabilities and the monthly clearing bank figures. The fact that any seasonal adjustment to sterling M3 is likely to be very much less dramatic than in October last year (when it was sharply upwards) suggests that the situation may yet emerge rather less badly than some had been fearing.

Indeed, provided that this is the case, financial markets may not be especially concerned, particularly now that they see the sterling float as having changed the nature of the game in any case. That said, the money supply targets do remain fundamental to government strategy and any increase over £450m in sterling M3 (1.1 per cent) in banking October must restrict the authorities' room for manoeuvre in the second half of the financial year.

What the banks themselves will be anxious to see in the coming months, of course, is the kind of contingency plans the government may have been preparing for the winter months if the situation remains uncomfortably tight. Even if the banks escape restrictions on the size of their books however, the latest clearing bank figures show that the process of having to refinance small depositors from money market sources is continuing—a process that is unlikely to remain as cheap as it is at present for ever.

### Brewers

#### That splendid 1976 summer

This time last year brewers were celebrating the results of a splendid 1976 summer. The situation is rather different now. The weather has been awful; people really have got less to spend on drinking and meanwhile prices are frozen while Mr Hattersley, the



Mr Roy Hattersley, the Prices Secretary, will be meeting the brewers shortly.

Prices Secretary, debates what his reaction should be to a controversial Price Commission report on the industry.

Reflecting all these problems and more Whitbread turned in a set of disappointing interim results yesterday: sales were up by 7 per cent in volume at £279m in the six months to the end of August while profits at £25m were down 2.3 per cent. That suggests that Whitbread has done rather worse than the national trend in volume terms, and the explanation—two damaging strikes which cost profits £3m—is clear enough.

This exceptional factor coupled with the company's muted optimism from here on (October was particularly good and depending on what Mr Hattersley has to say on pricing Whitbread reckons next year should see much better trading) saw the shares 2 1/2 p better at 88 1/2 in a good market. With a yield over 6 1/2 per cent Whitbread looks relatively attractive against the market. But it would be unwise to go back into the sector until some of the obvious doubts are resolved. Most pressing of course is Mr

Hattersley's reaction to the Price Commission report. A meeting between him and the brewers is due within the next couple of weeks and the industry is optimistic that the Minister will be swayed by arguments that the report was unduly critical of its investment planning.

Whitbread has scheduled £100m of investment of which the largest chunk is £35m between 1975 and 1980 on a new lager plant at Magor. This is big money and it is being spent in the view that lager, already accounting for around 25 per cent of British beer consumption, will continue to increase its share.

The doubt is created by the fact that lager growth has slowed down, although in a period, the year to September, when overall beer production fell by 1 per cent lager increased its market penetration by around 2 1/2 per cent. The point is how much optimism about lager was created by the exceptional weather in 1976 and to a lesser extent 1975. Brewing is a volume sensitive industry made more so by the vast capital spending in new lager capacity. If the marketing people have got their sums wrong the retraction could be painful.

● A 35 per cent decline in the last half's reported profits and sharply reduced margins is an inauspicious background for a rights issue, especially when the company concerned is a householder, Barratt Developments is thus relying heavily on the 14.7 per cent yield on its offer price of 85p a share and the prospects of a rapidly improving housing market for the success of its £6.5m cash call.

But it is far from clear why the issue is being made. It is an expensive way of raising money. On a full tax charge, the dividend on the increased capital would have been covered only 1.4 times on last year's earnings, while even excluding the cosmetic benefits of taking £10.2m of deferred tax into reserves, borrowings were only 77 per cent of shareholders' funds. Although this reduces to 54 per cent with the rights, the cost seems out of all proportion to the benefit, particularly considering the likely increase in retained earnings if the long-awaited pick-up in the housing market is nearly here.

Latest figures on housing starts in the private sector are encouraging, but not so encouraging as the record inflows to building societies, and the record number of mortgages promised.

So far price increases have been held back to 10 per cent a year because net wages have been static or falling. Phase three is altering that delicate balance while the climate is being changed by Government schemes to help first time buyers. Building starts are poised for a further rise on hopes that it all comes true. It may not. But in any case Barratt shareholders should ask themselves why their company is prepared to raise money from them, more expensively than from the bank, where the company has ample facilities, and where property should be just round the corner.

### Coats Patons

#### Currency losses take their toll

Currency fluctuations aside, the central feature of interim results from Coats Patons is the confirmation that the world textile recovery, which looked possible earlier this year, has failed to materialise.

Thread sales fell 3 per cent in volume while yarns and fabrics have been weak so far in the second half.

Coats has weathered this well. Trading margins at 15.2 per cent in the six months to June, though down on the second half of last year, are markedly up from the 1976 full year level of 14.4 per cent.

Next year trading hopes must centre on the state of the world economies generally, more specifically on the possibility of a tightening up of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement against cheap acrylic imports.

Meanwhile, Coats has shown how sensitive it is to the currency fluctuations. These cost £7m in the first half and may cost £12m in the second.

So the company's overseas exposure will probably lead to the shares being governed at the moment in favour of more United Kingdom-orientated stocks. But Coats should make profits of £85m this year which puts them on a p/e ratio of well under 5 and prospective yield of 7.4 per cent, a rating which still allows nothing for a splendid growth record.

Businessmen from all over Britain will be flooding into Brighton this weekend for the first national conference to be staged by the Confederation of British Industry. Before television cameras and the press they will have the opportunity to mount the rostrum and say their pieces on a wide range of issues—the authentic voices of the boardroom and management committee rooms, but speaking in the manner of delegates to a TUC Congress, or a party conference.

When industrial policy has become the dominant theme of government by either big party, it is hardly surprising that the CBI should attempt to strengthen its influence with a series of round-table discussions from a wide spectrum of business. The preoccupation of politicians and their Civil Service advisers with industrial and economic affairs has taken trade union and boardroom leaders into the very heart of Whitehall.

### Advice

Industrial lobbying has come of age. Once, ministers relied heavily on their civil servants for advice. Today, it comes at them from all sides. Private industry, which at one time pleaded to be left alone untrammelled by Whitehall, is on the offensive, led by representative organisations such as the CBI. Britain's industrial problems can be handled only with one eye on the industrial lobby and the other on the government. A CBI conference is an unspoken desire to match the TUC in framing policies for running the mixed economy. The unions and do sometimes bring the industrial machine to a halt, while the providers of capital and those who take investment decisions cry out for more productivity.

Each side has sought to push and pull governments to its way of thinking. While the TUC's role and influence is evident, that of pressure groups speaking for management and sectors of business is a mixed bag. Some organisations are run by one man and a dog.

But the CBI has steadily emerged as the main means of consultation between business and government on a wide range of subjects. There are problems, of course. Every industrialist serving on the CBI council has been trained according to rather harsh principles—if at first you do not succeed, then your successor will. Some CBI committees include men who believe in planning and government action arising from it should try to assist, not to supplant the market economy.

Freedom to manage within an agreed framework is also the cry of men who run state-owned industries and companies. They are linked with the CBI, though it is a reflection of an intensification of lobbying in all its forms that they have recently developed their own organisation, while retaining CBI membership.

Modern government is deeply involved in industry—and it is not simply a question of setting up or abolishing National Enterprise Boards, pushing planning agreements or nourishing sick companies. New employment protection laws, reforms of taxation, pricing and competition controls and a host of technical matters ranging from pollution to safety legislation mean a requirement to lobby at every twist and turn of a Government programme.

Lobbying takes many forms. Ministers and senior civil servants are much in demand for private as well as public meetings and luncheons. Big companies now maintain expert staff to watch Whitehall and to keep in touch with the press. Whitehall itself maintains

hundreds of information officers who explain and defend departmental interests as issues rise and fall.

And there is never any shortage of issues. The present debate on employee participation is but one example. The steady acceptance of some central direction of the economy has led to the creation of aids to industry, the establishment of the National Economic Development Office and the development of new institutions covering prices, trade practices and industrial relations and, these have all served to make business decision-taking at company level a very complex affair.

It is the same in representative organisations, whether small trade associations or the CBI, now extending its affiliates fast in the City and in retailing.

Memberships

That is one of the reasons why next week's conference is important to the CBI. Its leaders and the secretariat will come a little closer to the general membership, for not every active supporter is a much publicised captain of industry.

The CBI has in the not too distant past experienced "grass roots" discontent and a conference with a chance to get to the microphone may well prove a worthwhile development that enhances the CBI, under its new director general, Mr John Methven, in its claim to speak for business when it goes to Whitehall to press some point of view.

Maurice Corina

The CBI's first annual conference opens in Brighton on Monday

## Why employers want their voices heard

'The CBI finds itself to some extent a prisoner

of British industrial history, tied to advocacy

of free enterprise, yet having to admit

that business cannot be unbridled and

unrestrained if governments are to plan ahead'

management of the economy is a task that the CBI has had to accept. It finds itself to some extent a prisoner of British industrial history, tied to advocacy of free enterprise yet having to admit that business cannot be unbridled and unrestrained if governments are to plan ahead.

Each side has sought to push and pull governments to its way of thinking. While the TUC's role and influence is evident, that of pressure groups speaking for management and sectors of business is a mixed bag. Some organisations are run by one man and a dog.

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Freedom to manage within an agreed framework is also the cry of men who run state-owned industries and companies. They are linked with the CBI, though it is a reflection of an intensification of lobbying in all its forms that they have recently developed their own organisation, while retaining CBI membership.

Modern government is deeply involved in industry—and it is not simply a question of setting up or abolishing National Enterprise Boards, pushing planning agreements or nourishing sick companies. New employment protection laws, reforms of taxation, pricing and competition controls and a host of technical matters ranging from pollution to safety legislation mean a requirement to lobby at every twist and turn of a Government programme.

Lobbying takes many forms. Ministers and senior civil servants are much in demand for private as well as public meetings and luncheons. Big companies now maintain expert staff to watch Whitehall and to keep in touch with the press. Whitehall itself maintains

hundreds of information officers who explain and defend departmental interests as issues rise and fall.

And there is never any shortage of issues. The present debate on employee participation is but one example. The steady acceptance of some central direction of the economy has led to the creation of aids to industry, the establishment of the National Economic Development Office and the development of new institutions covering prices, trade practices and industrial relations and, these have all served to make business decision-taking at company level a very complex affair.

It is the same in representative organisations, whether small trade associations or the CBI, now extending its affiliates fast in the City and in retailing.

Memberships

That is one of the reasons why next week's conference is important to the CBI. Its leaders and the secretariat will come a little closer to the general membership, for not every active supporter is a much publicised captain of industry.

The CBI has in the not too distant past experienced "grass roots" discontent and a conference with a chance to get to the microphone may well prove a worthwhile development that enhances the CBI, under its new director general, Mr John Methven, in its claim to speak for business when it goes to Whitehall to press some point of view.

Maurice Corina

### John Huxley

## Construction: which part needs shoring up first?

A motorway interchange takes shape. Civil engineers want a "fair share" of the cash that has been made available for the construction industry.

The Chancellor has announced that an extra £400m will be pumped into Britain's ailing construction industry next year. In the same day, Mr Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to give the details of how and where the money will be spent.

Civil engineers, perhaps more than most, will be paying careful attention to the original announcement last month as part of the Chancellor's measures was decidedly chilly.

The first indications seemed to be that the biggest share of the £400m would go to housing. As a senior official of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors commented ruefully: "This will not do much for civil engineering contractors."

Within two days of the announcement, the tripartite Economic Development Committee for civil engineering had met and submitted a paper to Mr Shore outlining the industry's problems and suggesting policy options for allocating the cash among different types of construction activity.

The response was quick. Last week Mr Shore, with Mr Freeman, Minister for Housing and Construction, met a delegation from the EDC led by Professor Thomas Williams, the chairman, and Mr George Henderson, chairman of the EDC's crisis subcommittee. The delegation asked the civil engineering industry's claim for a fair share of the cash.

To what extent the meeting was successful will be seen this week, but Mr Henderson said that the minister was convinced of the need to avoid either lopsidedness or overheating within the construction industry.

Civil engineers claim that they have suffered more than most in the general construction slump, which has seen total output fall by an estimated 30 per cent since the peak year of 1973 and led to unemployment of about 300,000 in the building, civil engineering and materials production industries.

No separate output figures are collected for civil engineering. Assessments depend upon forward projections of orders. However, it will have been emphasised to Mr Shore that about 90 per cent of civil engineering new work is for the public sector, for which output is estimated to have fallen by about 14 per cent between 1973 and 1976.

The civil engineers stress that at present public expenditure plans to 1978-79 indicate a further drop in spending on roads and other environmental services—like water, sewerage, and drainage and flood protection—to a level 40 per cent below that in 1973-74.

Even if nationalised industries' work is included, the projected fall for civil engineering is some 17 per cent, assuming that plans are realised.

Predictably, the civil engineers are angry. After the announcement of the Chancellor's measures, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors said: "All of the Government's plans since 1974 have been concentrated mainly on civil engineering work rather than building, with the result that since 1974, civil

engineering employment has fallen by 32 per cent against 13 per cent for building.

"Yet such reduction as the Government has made over the past 12 months has been overwhelmingly back to building."

Recent surveys within civil engineering suggest that the difficulties caused by public spending cuts have been unevenly spread. Orders for oil companies and some of the nationalised industries, for instance, have remained buoyant, but the number of contractors involved has been small.

Rather it is the small and medium-sized companies, those which specialise in roads and sewerage work, which have found orders most drastically reduced. The outlook for these remains bleak.

The civil engineering EDC accepts that the minister will have been looking at ways in which the cash that has been made available can be used to

reduce unemployment. It is, therefore, likely to have suggested that money should be spent on projects which are labour-intensive and which can be started quickly. These would include road maintenance, minor road improvements, sewerage renewal projects and environmental improvements.

Projects ready to start but left on the shelf because past cash shortages could be revived.

The EDC is also anxious that local authorities and water boards should be encouraged to spend up to the limits open to them. There have been signs recently that they have not been doing so.

The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, too, has been urging the Government to concentrate on work which can be started quickly and which has a high content of non-craft workers, again such as water, sewerage and minor road schemes. It points to short-

ages of skilled men, such as bricklayers and plasterers, in some areas of building.

It is a point of view that does not win favour with the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, which insists that the shortages are minimal and confined to certain regions only. It would argue for an injection of cash to win back and hold craftsmen.

Whatever the minor differences of opinion, the construction industry, while appreciating Mr Shore's efforts on its behalf, knows that the £400m—next year—is little more than a holding operation which will help to arrest further decline and waste of resources.

All sectors are hoping for further relief in the spring. What form this might take and how it can be incorporated into a stable programme of work will be a key item of discussion when representatives of all sectors meet the Chancellor on December 1.

## Associated British Foods Half Year Progress Report

The Directors of Associated British Foods Limited announce unaudited profits for the six months ended 1 October, 1977.

	Six months to 1 October, 1977	Six months to 2 October, 1976	Year to 2 April, 1977
	£m	£m	£m
Sales to Customers	817,000	703,000	1,491,000
Trading Surplus	50,400	47,400	115,600
Less Depreciation	13,100	11,200	24,600
Group Profit	37,300	36,200	91,000
Less Interest charges	5,300	5,000	10,700
Profit before Tax	32,000	31,200	80,300
Less United Kingdom tax	8,500	8,300	22,200
Overseas tax	6,000	6,500	15,000
Profit after Tax	17,500	16,400	43,100
Less Minority Interests	4,100	3,900	8,500
	13,400	12,500	34,600
Preference dividends	20	20	40
Ordinary dividends			
1st Interim	2,839	2,511	2,511
2nd Interim	—	—	4,337

An interim dividend of 0.7955p per ordinary share will be paid on 13 March, 1978 to the shareholders registered at 6 February, 1978. Including tax credits this dividend is equivalent to 1.2053p per share.

Profits at £32 million are marginally ahead of last year and are arrived at after taking into account some £2 million of losses sustained during the period, due to the national strike of bakery workers. The effects of this industrial action will continue to be felt during the second half of the year.

In spite of the lower margins in recent months in grocery retailing due to fierce competition, the profitability of our retailing divisions has been on budget and this, together with the good results from the other U.K. manufacturing activities, has more than made up for the unsatisfactory bakery results during the half year.

Overseas, the highly competitive conditions that prevailed in most of the industries in which our South African subsidiary, Premier Milling, participates, put margins under pressure, although good volume increases were obtained. Premier's results are not expected to be substantially different from those achieved last year.

Despite good trading results for much of the period by our Australian companies, the effect of the Government's price freeze in the early months of the year, together with the long drought affecting our meat and dairy divisions in Western Australia, combined to produce half year results marginally below last year.

Although capital expenditures have continued at a high level, the Group's strong cash flow, combined with lower than planned borrowings and falling interest rates in this country, have reduced interest charges in the U.K.; this has been offset by higher interest charges overseas.

The Group expects to exceed the previous year's profit level, but it is not anticipated that this increase will be significant. Nevertheless, all our operating divisions, both at home and overseas, are well equipped to meet the competition which they will face in trading conditions for the remainder of the period.

GARRY H. WESTON Chairman.

## Business Diary: Exit Whitehorn

## Surprise in store

The two-day conference that gets under way in Brighton on Sunday night is the first national get-together the CBI has had. For John Whitehorn, however, a CBI official for 30 years, it will be his last.

Whitehorn, one of John Methven's two deputy directors general, is resigning at 53, 12 years ahead of retirement.

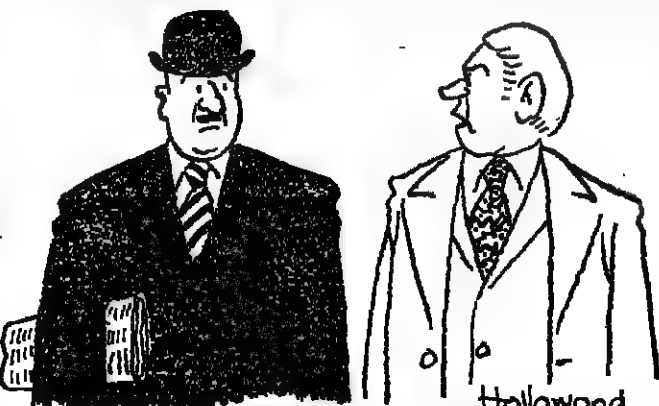
He told Business Diary's Ross Davies last night: "I've been here 30 years and that's a damned long time to be in any organisation. I had two choices, either move now and hope for 10 years in another career or carry on at the CBI until they carry me out."

Whitehorn said he had talked the matter over "in perfect amity" with Methven and would be leaving early next year. Neither his destination nor his successor is known.

Methven, who is two years younger than Whitehorn, was brought in from the Office of Fair Trading in June last year. Whitehorn's fellow deputy director-general, Jimmy James, is a Methven appointee.

Whitehorn has served as deputy to all three directors general—Methven, Sir Campbell Adamson and John Davies. Previously he had been personal assistant to Sir Norman Kipping, head of the Federation of British Industry, one of the organisations which now make up the CBI.

The brother of the news-columnist Katharine Whitehorn is a former overseas director of the CBI and has always had a keen interest in Europe. He is industrial adviser to Churchill College, Cambridge.



"The real trouble will begin when those people who have already accepted 10 per cent or less start to feel sorry for themselves."

Rumours have been circulating for months in the Chicago head office of Sears, Roebuck and Company about who would be picked as the next chairman of this, the world's largest retailing company. The announcement has now been made and it is a surprise.

Arthur Wood, the reserved and thoughtful chairman, who reaches the company's mandatory retirement age of 65 in January, says that his successor will be Edward Telling, who is 53 and the company's senior executive vice-president for field operations. He moved to headquarters from a regional position less than two years ago.

The man likely to be most disappointed by the decision is Dean Swift, the 59-year-old president and chief administrative officer. Swift will remain in his post,

Shipbuilders are over, Rab Butler (not the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, moonlighting) is in sight of getting his team together.

He announced yesterday that he is bringing in William Burns from PA Management Consultants to be responsible for finance and Michael Abbotts from Govan Shipbuilders to run industrial relations; that Brian Wright is moving from the company secretaryship of NECS to take over administration and that Alan Brewster comes in from the Post Office's cable ship fleet to run the Redhead Yard at South Shields.

Butler, who told Business Diary's Ross Davies yesterday that further appointments will be announced shortly, came in himself from the private sector. He is on attachment from his own ship-repairing company, Clyde Dock, which he has left managing director Bert Ellison.

Despite all the hoop-ba that led to the exclusion of ship-repairing from the nationalisation of the shipbuilding industry, British Shipbuilders, the new state body, has in fact ended up with the biggest ship-repairing unit in Britain, if not in Europe, the jewel in the crown being NECS, now a group of six type yards.

NECS was already in public hands at the time of the nationalisation, having been part of the Court Line group which founded it. It has since been expanded with the acquisition, among others, of Wallsend Slipway and Wallsend Dry Dock from Swan Hunter.

The connection between advertising and hot air, never hard to see, is nowhere more

clear than in the operations of Colin Prescott and Julian Nott's Hot Air Balloon Company.

Founded 1 year ago to cater to the advertising industry's taste for airborne publicity, the company now has nine balloons and, Prescott and Nott say, is the biggest in Europe.

So six balloons—even for profit—became a summer-time occupation, so Prescott, the chief executive, is spending the winter planning a "hare and hounds" race across the Channel to be held in March. Nott, a world altitude record holder, will set off for France chased by other balloonists, the winner being the one that lands nearest to him.

Another project is an attempted crossing of the North Sea to break a hot air balloon long distance record of 343 miles. Prescott and Nott's last attempt was not much of an advertisement. They set off from Tynningham, near Dundee, for Scandinavia, but crashed into a Scottish tree.

We recently asked if anybody knew of a company with a longer name than an Algerian concern, Société Nationale pour la Recherche, la Production, le Transport, la Transformation et la Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures. Reader Hugh Stokes has written from Dubai to recall the longest name on the Stock Exchange list in his days there—the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes Ltd. From Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, F. C. Powell recalls the legend of the Southampton, Isle of Wight and South Coast of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Any advance?

With 10 days to go before the first 100 days of his administration at North East Coast



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Power workers spur a fragile rally

The more favourable turn of events in the power workers dispute brought an altogether brighter look to the industrial pitches as buyers made a cautious return.

Though some of the biggest rises were exaggerated by the closing of oversold positions, dealers said the quality and quantity of business was the best for some time and for once prices held their best levels.

Though the bulk of the gains

Up 7p to 107p in the last couple of days textile group Dawson International has been attracting support in front of interim figures due later this month. Though the profits are expected to be good and the price looks attractive the main snag is speculation about Wim Baird's 20 per cent stake. Dealers feel that Baird might be tempted to make a move now that Dawson's profits are so much stronger.

had been achieved by midday, when the index stood 9.9 up, equities were further encouraged by the late strength of sterling and by the close it was 11.8 ahead at 492.2, its best day for three weeks.

Gilt-edged stocks scored early rises of more than 1p in early trading at the longer end. Though below their best many stocks were still around a point to the good at the close.

Dealers were encouraged by the Government's obvious determination to resist the more militant pay claims but do not see spectacular progress among the industrial leaders over the next few weeks. They give a fair reason for this a clutch of results due in the next few weeks and the caution this will engender.

The leaders due to report soon had a good session with Becton 10p ahead at 637p, Unilever up 10p to 568p, ICI

8p to the good at 370p and Courtaulds, in spite of disappointing figures from Coats Patons, a couple of pence ahead at 116p. Coats ended half a point to 66p. Other leaders at the centre of attention were Lucas which recouped a couple of pence of the previous day's fall to end at 286p, Smiths Industries which rose 2p to 158p after figures, forecast here, and Reed International which did not have a happy time on two counts—the Daily Mirror dispute and the last week's disappointing figures. The shares dropped 4p to 134p. In the electrical sector there was good support for Thermo, up 8p to 406p, GEC 5p to 263p and Decca which ended 10p ahead at 495p. Electronic Rentals returned from suspension to close at 105p, a gain of 9p, after news of the Philips move.

Engineering similarly favoured included Dairy Lovers national 10p to 235p, Vickers 8p to 191p and Hawker Siddeley 6p to 190p.

Coral continued to respond to the cash raising operation of the previous day adding another 10p to 250p. A rights issue and dividend increase helped British Gundry to gain 3p to 36p while cash raising operations left Barratt Developments 3p up to 107p and Record Ridgway a penny better at 91p.

Centre of interest in the food sector was below par figures from AB Foods which slipped 2p to 64p in spite of news of an application for a price increase. Fellow millers Spillers 35p and Rankin Hovis 51p were little moved but both Associated Biscuits, up 6p to 98p, and United Biscuits, better by 8p to 156p, met with strong support. Nurdin & Peacock continued to meet with speculative interest, the shares rising another 6p to 113p, while Park Farms advanced another 20p to 343p ahead of figures due tomorrow.

Stores featured W. H. Smith, "A", better by another 15p to 800p in front of figures which,

it is hoped, will contain proposals for a share split though some watchers are doubtful that this will be the case. Another store due to report this week is Bayside, the market looking for interim profits of around £47m but where a possible pension fund provision is always an impediment. The shares were 3p better at 230p. With Christmas approaching investors started to take a limited interest in toy shares. Modest gains were scored by Lesney 2p to 70p, Matty 2p to 52p and Airtex 1p to 56p. Dunbee Combe held steady at 160p after the United States move which will greatly enhance its manufacturing capacity there.

Favourable comment had Cowan de Groot to gain 3p to 64p and Kwik Fit 12p to 101p. Trafford Carpets soared 21p to 45p after news of a possible approach.

Stores featured W. H. Smith, "A", better by another 15p to 800p in front of figures which,

were comparatively subdued but Ultramar gained another 6p to 226p in front of figures and Siebens was actively traded at 242p, a gain of 12p on the day. In the banking group, National Westminster at 262p, Barclays at 317p and Midland at 347p scored rises of up to 10p. Other strong features in the sector were Standard Chartered 10p to 380p, Guinness Peat 8p to 208p and Gillett Brothers 5p to 225p.

Over in insurance broker C. E. Heath added 11p to 243p after figures and in front of a statement General Accident put on 8p to 246p.

The best of a subdued property sector were Slough Estates at 105p and Stock Co. version at 225p, both 5p ahead and Land Securities which rose 4p to 202p. After figures Mar-

## Gloomy AB Foods still counting bread strike costs: profits poor

By Alison Mitchell

The bread strike earlier this year knocked £2m off the first half profits of Associated British Foods, one of Britain's three bakery giants.

In the six months to October 1, the group was only slightly ahead with pre-tax profits of £32m, against £31.2m. This was at the lower end of many City estimates and the shares slipped a further 2p yesterday to close at 64p. This compares with 76p 10 days ago.

Despite the strike, sales were stepped up from £703m to £817m. But the full impact has still to be felt.

Housewives who turned to independent and home baking during the strike are reluctant to return to the supermarket shelves for their bread. Mr Garry Weston, chairman, warns shareholders of the increase in competitive pressures caused by the slow recovery in bread consumption.

The group has applied for a 3p rise in the price of a loaf to ease margins which, if accepted, will operate from the end of this month.



Mr Garry Weston, chairman.

Providing volume continues to improve in the second half year, this division could break even by the year-end. But the chairman makes a gloomy forecast for the current year. Profits are unlikely to be much greater than last year's £80.4m with the highly competitive markets both at home and overseas showing little prospect for growth.

"The result will be an intensification of the pressure on margins," he says.

Another division suffering from fierce competition is grocery retailing, where the Fine Fare supermarkets are feeling the effects of the Tesco price cuts. However, the profits from this side—which also takes in the Shoppers Paradise and Elmo Discount stores—has been increased, more than making up for the unsatisfactory bakery results.

Overseas, margins at South African subsidiary Frenler Milling were under increasing pressure though volume did show a definite improvement in the period. Profits should increase in the second half leaving the figures for the year similar to those of last time.

Australia was almost 10 per cent down on last year's 30 pence but is unlikely to match its previous profit.

In the year to April 2 overseas earnings accounted for 45 per cent of the total but these profits could be hit in the second half by a strengthening pound.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
lat or fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
A. B. Foods (1)	817.0(703.0)	32.0(31.2)	(—)	0.79(0.71)	13/3	—(2.0)
Barratt Developments (1)	3.3(2.4)	0.36(0.37)	0.35(0.35)	—(1.1)	9/12	—
Robt Bradford (1)	(—)	3.5(3.2)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Briddport-Gundry (F)	9.15(8.06)	0.85(0.58)	5.45(4.15)	0.61(0.5)	—	1.2(1.1)
Clement Clarke (1)	3.4(2.9)	0.38(0.42)	(—)	0.52(0.81)	(—)	—(1.75)
Coats Patons (1)	323.5(299.8)	40.5(31.5)	7.4(5.7)	1.16(0.93)	30/12	(—)
Geo Doland (1)	1.8(1.4)	0.07(0.02)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Eva Ltd (1)	11.8(9.6)	1.1(0.87)	(—)	1.9(1.44)	(—)	—(3.6)
Hartwells Grp (1)	38.2(28.2)	0.90(0.47)	8.51(3.98)	1.46(1.0)	31/1	—(3.9)
C. E. Heath (1)	(—)	5.4(3.6)	(—)	1.1(0.8)	5/1	—(8.6)
Jaks & Cartell (F)	7.5(5.8)	0.44(0.28)	(—)	0.33(0.73)	14/1	1.4(1.3)
Jesus (F)	21.2(14.1)	0.55(0.31)	6.74(3.71)	1.05(1.00)	5/1	1.55(1.39)
Marionair (F)	26.9(19.2)	3.6(2.1)	(—)	3.75(1.32)	(—)	5.3(3.3)
McIntyre Rr (1)	13.3(10.5)	0.44(0.21)	(—)	1.55(1.50)	30/12	3.5(3.2)
Minster Assets (1)	(—)	3.7(2.7)	3.89(1.97)	0.71(0.63)	(—)	1.2(1.11)
Newman Ggr (F)	6.4(5.3)	0.28(0.29)	4.44(5.58)	1.8(1.2)	(—)	2.7(2.4)
PC Elides (F)	13.2(10.7)	0.52(0.49)	(—)	0.8(0.72)	(—)	(—)
Scotcor (1)	(—)	0.47(0.37)	4.12(3.16)	0.8(0.72)	(—)	(—)
Smiths Ind (F)	224.0(180.8)	20.5(16.1)	21.9(17.3)	4.2(3.7)	3/1	7.2(6.4)
Vernon Fdm (1)	4.0(3.1)	0.20(0.14)	(—)	1.4(1.11)	28/12	—(2.7)
Whitbread (1)	278.9(260.7)	25.3(24.6)	25.3(24.6)	1.18(1.02)	(—)	(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. All figures are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A forecast. A loss.



## INTERIM STATEMENT

Whitbread and Company Limited announce the following Unaudited Profits for the six months to 27th August 1977, and an Interim Dividend of 1.1857 pence per share (1976/77 = 1.0272p). When taken with the appropriate tax credit the Interim Dividend represents an increase of 10% and includes an additional payment of 0.0384 pence in respect of the Final Dividend for the year to 26th February 1977, which was declared prior to the reduction in the basic rate of income tax from 35% to 34%.

	Six Months to 27/8/1977	Six Months to 28/8/1976
Turnover	£278,979	£260,780
Profit before depreciation and funding charges	37,193	38,729
Deduct:		
Depreciation, less investment grants credit	5,824	4,824
Bank and loan interest payable	6,541	5,985
Provision for future (gains) losses on foreign exchange	(201)	2,100
Profit before Taxation and Extraordinary Items	25,229	25,820
Taxation—Current and Deferred	12,948	14,450
Profit before Extraordinary Items	12,281	11,370
Extraordinary Items, less Taxation attributable thereto	816	617
Attributable to Minority Interests	(40)	(5)
Profit attributable to Members of Holding Company	13,057	11,982
Preference Stock Dividend	208	208
Interim Dividend on Ordinary Shares	2,669	2,310
Interim Dividend—pence per Share	1.1857	1.0272
Earnings—pence per Share—Basic	5.35	4.96
Fully Diluted	4.96	4.62

NOTES:  
1. As in previous years and pending the agreement of a new national accounting standard, the movement in foreign exchange has been included in earnings for the purposes of calculating earnings per share.  
2. The interim dividend will be paid on 12th January, 1978 to shareholders on the Register at close of business on 28th November, 1977.

Turnover was £278,979,000, an increase of 7% and our Profit Before Tax and Extraordinary Items was £25,229,000, a decrease of 2.3%. Due to lower taxation charges, our Profit After Tax at £12,281,000 showed an increase of 8%.

Our trading was adversely affected by three main factors. First, the carry-over effect of the London strike during January-February 1977, plus further unofficial industrial action during the Spring and Summer in several of our companies. Secondly, the cold and wet Summer and, thirdly, steadily decreasing spending money in our customers' pockets.

Lager continues to be a key factor in the brewing industry's performance. Growth during 1977 has slowed down but, after discounting the weather factor, we believe the growth of lager will continue. We are, therefore, confident in continuing our investment in the new lager brewery at Magor. We feel that Whitbread's two main lager brands, Heineken and Stella Artois, are well placed to take up the future demand for lager in the market place. The introduction of Stella Artois in cans during May has been particularly successful. Against the background of a difficult trading period, we report good progress by Whitbread Trophy Bitter, as well as Gold Label, English Ale and Brewmaster.

The poor Summer weather caused a dramatic drop in sales of Soft Drinks, which severely affected sales of R. White's Lemonade. This was in sharp contrast to our sales of Rawlings Mixers, which are up on last year and considerably increased their share of the market.

In a difficult market, volume sales of wine have been maintained at last year's levels. Profitability has shown an upwards movement, due to increased sales of Langenbach German wines and French table wines.

In spirits, Long John International has opened a number of new overseas markets and continues to show increased sales and profits. In the United Kingdom, sales of the Long John brand are now running at almost double last year's figures.

The prospects of the second half year are mixed. On the one hand, we expect the new wage settlements throughout industry, linked to the Chancellor's recent reduction in personal taxation, to create more disposable income. On the other hand, during this Autumn we suffered a major unofficial strike in Wales. But, even more importantly, the Government has queried the pricing actions of our industry. We must assume that, once it has fully considered our evidence on the matter, the need for a fair pricing policy will be recognised. Meanwhile, until the Government's future intentions are clarified, with continuing inflation and wage increases yet to be negotiated, the Brewing Industry's profits and investment programme must be severely at risk. Looking further ahead into 1978, and assuming that discussions on pricing will be successfully concluded, we judge that 1978 should be a better trading year.

THE BREWERY, CHISWELL STREET, LONDON, E.C.1.

## Smiths Inds pleases with £20.5m

By Nicholas Hirst

Smiths Industries profits for the year to July 30 turned out at the top of market expectations with a 27 per cent rise to £20.5m.

Since the year end, of course, disruption in the car plants both from internal and suppliers problems will have hit at original equipment sales which performed particularly well last year with a share improvement in second half margins thanks to a long trouble-free run. But even though profits from this division were doubled at £3.5m last year they still only amount to 15 per cent of trading profits, so present troubles will not have too harsh an effect, while the prospect of improving United Kingdom car production from £1.5m to £3.0m, and will remain so.

Distribution, however, which

The other strong performer last year, the medical division, was helped by the acquisition of George MacLellan, which was in for the full 12 months against the year end. The previous year, giving an extra £500,000 or so to divisional profits up from £2.8m to £3.3m.

But growth is continuing as the plastic products continue to make headway against the traditional rubber supplies. Aerospace was down from £4.0m to £3.1m affected by the full in new aircraft building. There is little prospect of a pick up in the current year, although spares and replacement parts may prevent any worsening and next year growing military orders will be coming through. Marine was down from £1.5m to £1.0m, and will remain so.

Improved 32 per cent to £5.6m is continuing to grow with the specialist suppliers to commercial vehicle garages and industrial components doing particularly well. Cloths and watches, though, continue to lose money, and there has not so far been any turnaround.

Overseas a change of mix led to improved results in Australia despite the depressed state of the economy with profit up overall from £2.2m to £2.9m.

The group says that cash resources remain strong and interest charges last year were slightly reduced at £1.2m. At 158p plus 2p the yield on a dividend increased by the maximum to 10.98p gross for the year with a final of 6.46p gives a yield of 6.9 per cent. The p/e is 7.2.

## Highland Distilleries rely on 'the Grouse'

By Bryan Appleyard

Record Ridgway, the Sheffield tool group, is to raise £1.5m through a one-for-four rights issue at 70p. It also forecasts pre-tax profits of £2.4m for the year to October 2.

The issue is to help with a £60m expansion move of which £50,000 is to be supplied by Government grants and £2.5m by a loan from Finance For Industry.

The cash is for three capital projects due for completion in 1979-80. They are a new foundry in Sheffield costing £2.8m, expansion and reequip-

## Payout hint from happy C E Heath

By Desmond Quigley

Insurance brokers and underwriter C. E. Heath hoisted pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of September by 49 per cent from £3.65m to £5.44m.

Despite the recently much voiced fears on the potentially adverse impact on the sector's profits due to the strength of sterling, Heath says that operating profits of £5.47m would have declined by only £31,000 if it had used the dollar exchange rate of \$1.835 instead of the actual rate of \$1.74, the average for the first half.

However, given that the second half year produces a stronger performance, the full year will reflect a decline more strongly if sterling remains firm.

The interim dividend was increased by 10 per cent from 2p to 2.2p a share gross (adjusted for the scrip issue). However, Mr F. R. D. Holland, chairman, says that the dividend he would have liked to increase the total dividend for the year by two to two-and-a-half times.

A 10 per cent increase in the total dividend to 7.33p a share gross would mean a yield of 3 per cent with the shares rising 21p to 243p.

The major growth so far this year has come from the United States, marine insurance and from the United Kingdom. Brokerage income rose by 34 per cent to £7.6m while income on the broking side rose 72 per cent to £700,000.

## Bridport hoists payout 65 pc with cash call

By Michael Clark

Nutting and cordage maker Bridport-Gundry (Holdings) plans to raise about £47,000 through a rights issue. It will offer 1.74 million ordinary shares of 20p each at 29p in the ratio of one new ordinary share for every four held.

Mr R. W. Holder, chairman (the resigning chairman at Fairley), says: "The group has expanded considerably in the past few years and despite difficult trading conditions has just completed a most successful year."

Along with a total dividend for the year to July 31 of 1.92p gross the directors say that shareholders can look forward to a total dividend of as much as 3.18p for the 12 months to July 31, 1978.

Accompanying the rights issue is the news that pre-tax profits of the Dorset-based group jumped by 52 per cent to £85,000.

Market reaction to the rights issue and dividend increase was favourable—the shares rose 3p.

## Turnround at British Midland helps push up interim at Minster by 35pc

A £510,000 turnround into profits of £115,000 at British Midland Airways helped the parent Minster Assets hoist pre-tax profits by 35 per cent to £3.7m in the six months to June 30.

The board of Minster consider the unaudited results for the first half of 1977 to be "very satisfactory". But Mr A. R. G. McGibbon, chairman, points out the interim figures do not give an accurate indication to the year.

In particular it must be noted that in the second half year the slide in United Kingdom interest rates will curb the investment income of Minster Insurance group.

The board will recommend a final dividend of not less than 3.03p gross.

Yearling rate goes up to 7 per cent

This week the coupon on local authority bonds rises from 6p per cent to 7 per cent. The biggest borrower is Walsall.

## First-half slump at Tysons (Contractors)

On turnover down from £6.17m to £5.31m, the pre-tax profits of Tysons (Contractors) slumped to £34,000 in the first six months of this year. This is only about a tenth of £338,000 made in the first half last year.

For the whole of 1976, the profits of Tysons, which constructs commercial and educational buildings in the Liverpool area, reached a record £76,000.

## A bid may be on for Trafford Carpets

The shares in Trafford Carpets Holdings jumped 21p to 45p on news that the board had been asked for information that might lead to a takeover bid for the Manchester-based group. A

## Vernon buoyant after jump of 44 pc

Things continue to go well for Vernon Fashion Group. Last year this retailer of ladies' and children's clothes managed a 33 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to a record £609,000 for the six months to July 31. It produced a 44 per cent jump to £203,000.

The board says that the third quarter has shown higher turnover, and profits for the year should be substantially ahead of the 1976/77 record. With a big expansion programme arranged for 1978 the board is confident.

## Pitney Bowes on the way to one third gain

A record third quarter for franking and mailing machine maker Pitney Bowes could mean the group finishing the year with pre-tax profits nudging £2m. These would compare with £1.5m, and reflect a more vigorous sales policy in the United Kingdom, according to Mr Ronald Williams, managing director.

The American parent yesterday launched a new up-market Pitney Bowes Marketing Systems, to become operational in the United Kingdom and Germany at the beginning of next year.

The offshoot will pull together the group's divisions in Europe manufacturing and selling price-marking products, tickets, tags and labels.

At the beginning of last month the group formed its own finance company, P. B. Leasing, to handle the leasing side of its business. This accounts for around half of the machines made by the group, excluding the franking meters invariably rented from Pitney Bowes.

## Siemens intends to keep DM8 payout unchanged

From Peter Norman

Siemens, the world's fourth largest electrical group, is keeping to its promise to pay an unchanged dividend of 16 per cent or DM8 per DM50 nominal share for the year that ended on September 30.

After a meeting of its supervisory board, the group announced that it is "considering" paying 16 per cent on capital increased to DM1,608m from DM1,594m. Despite the cautious formulation, the payment is assured, and it will cost Siemens DM257m compared with DM255m the year before.

Thanks to the recent West German corporation tax reform, shareholders living in the Federal Republic will also receive tax credit of DM4.50 per share, thus greatly increasing the effective yield on their shareholdings.

Siemens' 51,000 foreign shareholders will have to be content with the unchanged DM8 pay out.

Granges suspended

The listing of the shares in Granges, the Swedish mining and metals group, has been suspended on the London and Stockholm stock exchanges. The group is negotiating with the Swedish government about cooperation in the steel bus-

## Casinos, restaurants lead way at Brent Walker

An across-the-board improvement at leisure group Brent Walker raised pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £82,900 in the 28 weeks to July 17 last. Turnover rose from £2.5m to £3.13m.

However with the bulk of earnings historically coming in the second half, managing director and chief executive Mr George Walker is already predicting a similar increase, taking the year's profits to more than £400,000, from £333,759.

High-fliers in the first half were the casinos and restaurants divisions, benefiting from the jubilee tourist boom.

GUY BUTLER (INT)

This London-based currency deposit and foreign exchange broker is buying a 40 per cent stake in leading Australian money broker, Money Market Dealers.

## Briefly

M. JAMES-GEORGE DOLAND Acceptances received 508,000 shares. The group is buying 1.88m shares in Dolan to 1.88m shares (42.6 pc).

CRANE FRUITFUL Board Fruitful Corp is extending bid until Nov 21. Acceptances received and not withdrawn total 62,315 shares.

SWISS BANK ISSUE Basle Swiss Bank Corp plans to make a rights issue in ratio of one for ten.

BARLOW RAND Turnover for year to September 30, £797.8m (£683.8m) and pre-tax profit, £109m (£90m).

## Ban... statements for October

Statements of the London Clearing Banks and their banking subsidiaries in England and Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man made up to October 19 are summarised in the table below:

	Total	Change on March 31, 1988	Barclays	Lloyds	Midland	National Westminster	Williams & Glyn's
Total Deposits	10,024	15,701	9,904	10,195	1,715	14,755	1,628
Cash and balances with Bank of England	1,087	+ 32	307	395	224	285	36
UK banks and branches abroad	10,116	- 54	4,338	4,680	751	3,121	295
Overseas markets	10,048	+ 308	5,569	5,695	1,276	5,019	280
Other	811	+ 30	340	340	108	366	157
Special Deposits	756	+ 30	340	340	108	366	157
Special Government Stocks	3,109	+ 80	466	466	358	540	167
Advances	20,354	+ 212	7,897	8,009	5,063	7,448	834
Reserve ratio (at 12.5)	-0.3	14.9	13.9	23.5	15.6	13.1	13.1







ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. § Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 22  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1977-78			1976-77			1975-76			1974-75			1973-74			1972-73			1971-72			1970-71			1969-70			1968-69			1967-68			1966-67			1965-66			1964-65			1963-64			1962-63			1961-62			1960-61			1959-60			1958-59			1957-58			1956-57			1955-56			1954-55			1953-54			1952-53			1951-52			1950-51			1949-50			1948-49			1947-48			1946-47			1945-46			1944-45			1943-44			1942-43			1941-42			1940-41			1939-40			1938-39			1937-38			1936-37			1935-36			1934-35			1933-34			1932-33			1931-32			1930-31			1929-30			1928-29			1927-28			1926-27			1925-26			1924-25			1923-24			1922-23			1921-22			1920-21			1919-20			1918-19			1917-18			1916-17			1915-16			1914-15			1913-14			1912-13			1911-12			1910-11			1909-10			1908-09			1907-08			1906-07			1905-06			1904-05			1903-04			1902-03			1901-02			1900-01			1899-00			1898-99			1897-98			1896-97			1895-96			1894-95			1893-94			1892-93			1891-92			1890-91			1889-90			1888-89			1887-88			1886-87			1885-86			1884-85			1883-84			1882-83			1881-82			1880-81			1879-80			1878-79			1877-78			1876-77			1875-76			1874-75			1873-74			1872-73			1871-72																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Must be a graduate with a degree in a relevant subject. Salary negotiable. Please write to: Stephens Selection, 25 Dore Street, London W1X 3BA. 01-480111.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Leicester

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN IONOSPHERIC PHYSICS

Applications are invited for a Research Associate in the Department of Physics. Must be a graduate with a degree in a relevant subject. Salary negotiable. Please write to: Stephens Selection, 25 Dore Street, London W1X 3BA. 01-480111.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Durham

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Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Law in the Faculty of Law. Must be a graduate with a degree in a relevant subject. Salary negotiable. Please write to: Stephens Selection, 25 Dore Street, London W1X 3BA. 01-480111.

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## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

PRE-QUALIFICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING FIRMS AND CONTRACTING ASSOCIATIONS WHO INTEND TO BID ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YACYRETA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

The ENTIDAD BINACIONAL YACYRETA created in accordance with the third article of the Treaty signed both by the Republic of Argentina and the Republic of Paraguay on December 3, 1973, will accept pre-qualifications of ENGINEERING FIRMS and CONTRACTING ASSOCIATIONS for the construction of the main civil works of the YACYRETA hydroelectric project on Yacyreta Island in the Parana River.

This notice of pre-qualification is public and international for those ENGINEERING FIRMS and CONTRACTING ASSOCIATIONS highly specialized in the construction of large hydroelectric projects. The ENTIDAD BINACIONAL YACYRETA project has already entered into negotiations with the World Bank and the International Bank for Development to obtain a loan to finance the construction.

Prospective bidders can obtain tender documents in the Financing Department of the ENTIDAD BINACIONAL YACYRETA at Junin Street 1060, 6th floor, Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the following times: 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the price of 150,000.00 (Argentine pesos) for the first copies and 100,000.00 (Argentine pesos) for additional copies. At Humaita Street 1357, 2nd floor, Asuncion, Paraguay, during the following times: 7.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. at the price of 50,000.00 (Argentine pesos) for the first copies and 37,500.00 (Argentine pesos) for additional copies. Interested parties must register their addresses at the offices at YACYRETA in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Applications for pre-qualification will be received at the place of the bid opening indicated in the Specifications until 4.0 p.m., February 2, 1978, at which moment bids openings will be carried out in the presence of the applicants and the corresponding act will be signed.

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Additional features: Paddocks and grounds.

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Cottage/Cottages available to rent.

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Extensive Gardens and Grounds. Freehold for sale.

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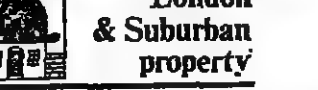


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In small professional Association, Lombard Street

Age approximately 25-35

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The successful applicant will be expected to organize the Annual Conference of the Institution including technical sessions, social events, and visits, as well as one day conferences, symposia, management courses in the universities and related activities including the arrangement of social functions.

Candidates should have had first class experience of organizing conferences and similar activities and be able to take charge of the Conference Unit which is concerned solely with this aspect of the work of the Institution.

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